

Iran seeks U.N. clarification

NICOSIA (AP) — Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati said Tuesday Teheran had accepted a United Nations proposal to revive deadlocked peace talks with Iraq, Teheran Radio reported. But Velayati added that points of the plan must be clarified before the two countries can hold direct talks. Velayati said Iran's decision to accept a proposal by U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, urging the two countries to sit down for two months of direct talks aimed at reaching a permanent peace settlement, had been communicated to the U.N. The radio, monitored in Nicosia, quoted Velayati as saying that Perez de Cuellar would have to clarify how the points of U.N. Resolution 596, which both countries accepted previous to the August 1988 ceasefire in their eight-year conflict, would be followed. "With his complete one point and only then go to the other point," Velayati added. The Iranian demand that Iraqi forces have to withdraw from Iranian territory seized in the closing weeks of the war before any other points can be discussed. Iraq still occupies about 1,000 square kilometres of Iranian territory.

Volume 15 Number 4358

AMMAN WEDNESDAY, APRIL 4, 1990, RAMADAN 9, 1410

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

جريدة الأردن تنشر يومياً سياسية تصدر بالإنجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية (الرأي)



Arafat asks Italy's help

ROME (AP) — Yasir Arafat suggested in an interview published Tuesday that Italy support economic sanctions against Israel to force it to negotiate a settlement with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). Arafat is due here Thursday for talks with Italian officials and an audience with Pope John Paul II. In an interview in Tunis with the Tunis newspaper *Le Stampa*, Arafat has said what could be done to ease Israeli opposition to direct negotiations with the PLO. "Sanctions. Tough. They work," he was quoted as replying, citing South Africa as an example. "Economic sanctions. In this field, Italy can do a lot." He noted that on July 1, Italy assumed the rotating presidency of the European Community (EC) for the next six months. Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter and Arafat meet Wednesday in the French capital, a newspaper and radio station reported Monday. Neither Radio Monte Carlo or the Arab-language newspaper *Al Hayat* said what would be on the agenda. A spokesman for the Carter Centre in Plains, Georgia, said Carter hoped the meeting with PLO leader would go forward but that nothing was firm.

King congratulates Abdou Diouf

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday sent a cable of congratulations to Senegal's Abdou Diouf on the occasion of his country's national day. King Hussein expressed his best wishes to the president and the people of Senegal.

Badran meets Tapline official

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Mudar Badran had a meeting in his office Tuesday with Harry Alter, trans-Arabian pipeline (Tapline) company vice-president with whom he discussed the Kingdom's relations with the company, based in Saudi Arabia. The company's representative in Jordan Jamal Sarrafi who is also a Parliament member representing Kank and Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Thabet Al-Taher were present at the meeting.

Contract signed for agricultural lab

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Agriculture, Suleiman Arabi, signed on behalf of the government a \$2.5 million contract with Hamilton Industries for laboratory casework. The contract is part of the larger national agricultural development project, which is funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). Michael Stringer, vice-president for marketing and sales, signed on behalf of Hamilton Industries. The casework, fixed laboratory equipment, and related items will be manufactured at Hamilton's facilities in Wisconsin, USA, and will be shipped to Jordan for installations beginning in early 1991. The bulk of the equipment is destined for the Ministry of Agriculture's National Centre for Agricultural Research and Technology Transfer at Baqa. Regional Agricultural Services Centres at Ramtha, Mushtagar, Rabbia, and Shobak will also receive some of this equipment.

U.N. chief opposes veto power for Japan, Germany

PARIS (R) — U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar said in an interview published Tuesday he was opposed to an extension of Security Council veto power to Japan and a unified Germany. "There are people who say that the right of the veto (exercised by the present five permanent members) is unjust," Perez de Cuellar told the Paris daily *Le Figaro*. "So why should it be necessary to increase the number of countries that exercise it?" He added: "We already have enough problems dealing with five. It will be much more difficult coping with seven. In any case that will open the door. The Latin Americans will say why not us. And the Africans too. The veto power should not be enlarged. (It would be) better to restrict it."

35 prisoners give up after riot

MANCHESTER (AP) — Thirty-five inmates who had rioted at Newgate prison surrendered Tuesday morning after a three-day siege, but a fight broke out when 20 more prisoners tried to give up. The 20 inmates who tried to surrender were physically blocked by other prisoners and no police officers were injured in the clash, said Ivor Serle, chairman of the local branch of the prison officers' association. After the initial 35 inmates gave in Tuesday morning, British authorities had said they were negotiating with the remaining 64 prisoners, trying to bring an end to the three days of rioting in which at least 51 people were injured.

Lebanese army captain shot dead

SIDON (R) — Three masked gunmen shot dead a Lebanese army officer in South Lebanon Tuesday, security sources said. They said the unidentified men who were in a green BMW car intercepted Captain Yousef Na'aman as he left his house in the village of Abra, east of the southern port city of Sidon, 40 kilometres south of Beirut.

'Saddam Hussein did not threaten anybody, but affirmed Iraq's ability to face aggression'

King defends Iraq, hits U.S. Senate resolution

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday defended Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's announcement that Iraq possesses sophisticated chemical weapons as part of Iraq's legitimate right of self defence.

"It is a concerted campaign (against Iraq) and we are aware of its origins and objectives," the King said. "It springs from an old and deep-rooted enmity towards the Arab Nation, and from aggressive designs to prevent Arabs from achieving progress and strength," he said in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

Saddam Hussein Monday announced that his country had developed deadly binary nerve gas weapons and warned Israel that he will use them to destroy half of

the Jewish state if Israel attacks Iraqi installations.

He said Iraq developed the weapons before the end of its war with Iran but did not use them in the war.

Iraq, unlike Israel, had signed a nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and allowed international inspection of its facilities.

The King said: "Israel is a nuclear power that refuses to sign the nuclear arms Non-Proliferation Treaty. Iraq, on the other hand, signed and ratified the treaty, which means that Iraqi nuclear installations are open for inspection by an international organisation. Nevertheless, we see that the campaign concentrates on Iraq and not on Israel, the only state in the Middle East to have nuclear arms. This means, simply, that aggressive

intentions lie behind the campaign."

He said the "iniquitous campaign now waged against Iraq makes it incumbent on all Arabs to waste no time in closing their ranks and uniting their positions to protect our Arab identity and nation, and affirm the Arab natural right to scientific and technological progress."

King Hussein also criticised last month's U.S. Senate resolution acknowledging Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and should remain so.

The resolution ... hinders the exports being made to bring peace to the Middle East, and diminishes the hope of achieving peace," the King said. "The resolution came as a surprise to us

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Iraq calls for emergency Arab meeting for solidarity

TUNIS (Agencies) — Iraq has asked the Arab League Council to hold an emergency meeting to express solidarity with Baghdad against Israel, the United States and other foreign powers considered hostile, a league official said Tuesday.

The league circulated the request to member states Monday and the meeting at ambassador level will probably take place on Thursday, Assistant Secretary-General Adnan Omran told Reuters.

Iraq wants the meeting to discuss the "hostile campaigns against Iraq by Israel, the United States and certain powers and Arab solidarity in the face of these campaigns," he added.

Tension between Iraq and the West is high after Britain and the United States accused Baghdad of trying to buy U.S.-made triggers for nuclear bombs and smuggling them through Britain.

Iraqi President Saddam Hussein said Monday there was a plot against Iraq and warned that chemical weapons would be used in retaliation against any Israeli attack on his country.

Iraqis staged rallies throughout the country Tuesday to support Hussein and his announcement that Iraq possesses sophisticated chemical weapons.

Iraqi officials, meanwhile said that the president's vow to incinerate half of Israel if attacked

"We have seen these reports, and if they are true, what we have

seen is inflammatory, irresponsible and outrageous," Tuwiler said, reading from a prepared statement that she described as "very strong."

Demonstrators marched in Baghdad and other Iraqi cities carrying banners condemning the United States, Britain and Israel for interfering in Iraq's internal affairs.

Demonstrators in Baghdad, carrying huge portraits of the president, denounced the "Anglo-American-Zionist conspiracy," which Hussein said was planned against his country.

They chanted slogans heralding the achievements of the Iraqi military industry.

An Iraqi official, who spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity, said his country's officials believe "there is a military operation designed by the Israelis with the authorisation and encouragement of the United States of America and Britain."

He cited Israeli warnings in recent months about Iraq's growing military strength.

Hassan himself said Western criticism of Iraq for executing a British-based reporter on spying charges and its attempts to purchase electronic parts allegedly useful for atomic bombs was intended to pave the way for an Israeli attack.

(Continued on page 5)

Israelis launch 'spy' satellite; Iraqi warning dominates news

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israel launched its second satellite into orbit Tuesday and its political leaders responded defiantly to an Iraqi warning of retribution if the Jewish state attacked Iraqi installations.

A rocket carrying the Ofek-2 probe, said by foreign sources to be a military reconnaissance satellite, blasted off from a launchpad in central Israel at 3 p.m. (1200 GMT). A large crowd of journalists and sightseers watched from a distance.

The satellite is widely viewed in the Arab World as a spycraft that will allow Israel to have immediate intelligence on Arab military moves.

But Israel space agency head Yisrael Neeman denied that the satellite had any military purpose.

Labour Party leader Shimon Peres, trying to form a new government after his coalition with Shamir collapsed last month, said the Jewish state was not looking for war but for security.

Asked if the launch was a message to Iraq, he told reporters: "I think it reminds him that if he wants to deal with Israel he should look for other means than military."

Israel went ahead with the launch a day after Iraqi President

Saddam Hussein disclosed that his country possessed binary chemical weapons and threatened to bomb half of Israel if it struck at Iraq.

Prime minister Yitzhak Shamir retorted that Israel knew how to defend itself.

Officials said the timing of the space shot was not linked to the Iraqi threat. But Foreign Minister Moshe Arens said the launch showed "the defence technology of the state of Israel is of a high level — I would say far higher than that of Iraq."

In September 1988, Israel launched what it called an experimental communications satellite — Ofek-1 — into orbit.

Iraq launched a space rocket of its own with great fanfare last December, apparently without a payload.

Labour Party leader Shimon Peres, trying to form a new government after his coalition with Shamir collapsed last month, said the Jewish state was not looking for war but for security.

"It has already completed about an orbit and a half of the earth. The data are as planned," he said on television. "This satellite has no cameras... it is not carrying any cargo that carries out a job."

Israel went ahead with the launch a day after Iraqi President

(Continued on page 5)

Badran praises Iraq

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Mudar Badran said Tuesday that the Iraqi stand, as voiced by Iraqi President Saddam Hussein Monday, "is an honourable one which all Arabs should be proud of."

In a statement to the Iraqi News Agency, Badran called for a "united Arab stand to fend off the challenges and conspiracies being hatched against the Arab Nation and its interests."

This pan-Arab stand should also include a call for peace, respect for the rights of others and non-interference in the internal affairs of other states," he said.

Badran stressed that relations among nations should be based on "civilised humanitarian and moral bases, which do not discriminate between the great powers and the small powers."

Badran wished Iraq further strength, power and glory and the Iraqi leader every success in serving the causes of the Arab Nation.

(Continued on page 5)

King voices support for Kohl's reunification effort

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday voiced support for West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl's efforts to reunify the two Germanys and wished Kohl all possible success for this unity.

It was the first formal Jordanian statement on efforts for German reunification and

came in a cable the King sent to Chancellor Kohl congratulating him on his 60th birthday. The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said the King wished the West German leader happiness and good health and expressed hope that Jordanians-West Germans relations would be further enhanced.

ACC foreign ministers meet in Amman today

AMMAN (J.T.) — The foreign ministers of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) will meet in Amman today to discuss a host of issues, including the recent threats to Iraq, the U.S. Senate resolution acknowledging Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, and Soviet Jewish immigration to Palestine. Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem said Tuesday.

In a statement carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Qasem said that the meeting would also discuss the ongoing Israeli threats to Jordan and referred to the recent official Israeli statements, which consider any inter-Arab coordination constitutes a threat to the Israeli security."

ACC Secretary-General Hilmi Nammar said the meeting would cover regional and world developments including British-Iraqi relations in light of what he called an anti-Iraq campaign being waged by London.

The ACC, formed last year by Jordan, Iraq, Egypt and North Yemen, tries to coordinate foreign as well as economic policy.

Geagea throws his weight behind Hrawi

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Lebanese warlord Samir Geagea gave his allegiance to the country's president on Tuesday in a bid for support in his war for the Christian enclave.

Geagea, whose Lebanese Forces (LF) militia has been fighting forces loyal to renegade General Michel Aoun for two months, implicitly accepted an Arab-sponsored peace pact to end Lebanon's almost 15 years of civil war.

"The solution in Lebanon is by recognizing President Elias Hrawi as president of the republic and considering the Taif agreement an introduction to that settlement," Geagea said in an interview with a new government, Israel radio said.

The importance of the agreement is that Aoun, which had been wavering in its support for Peres, formally agreed to join a Labour-led government.

Peres was assigned by President Chaim Herzog to compose a government after Shamir's Likud-Labour cabinet was toppled in a parliament vote of no confidence March 15. The crisis was triggered by a dispute over Middle East peace proposals.

Aoun, who refuses to recognise Hrawi, opposes the Taif accord signed by Lebanese deputies in October because it makes no provision for total withdrawal of Syrian troops in Lebanon.

Analysts and Christian politicians said Geagea's remarks were an implicit appeal to Hrawi to back him against Aoun, whose troops

stand little chance of defeating him alone.

(Continued on page 5)

Moscow, Lithuania seek to soften dispute; secession law approved

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Lawmakers Tuesday endorsed a bill formalising procedures for a republic to secede from the Soviet Union as leaders in Lithuania and Moscow tried to soften their dispute over the Baltic republic's independence declaration.

Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's top deputy spoke of "friendly ties" with Lithuania and said the Kremlin does not question its right to secede — as long as the Baltic republic follows proper constitutional procedures.

The comments by Anatoly L. Lukyanov, chairman of the Supreme Soviet parliament, came as Lithuania's leaders sought a compromise in their three-week-old confrontation with the Kremlin.

The Lithuanians want to open negotiations with Moscow without having to heed Gorbachev's demands that they renounce their

March 11 declaration of independence.

Despite the conciliatory tone between leaders on both sides, the Soviet government on Tuesday closed Lithuania's border with Poland, the Polish Foreign Ministry said. The closed crossing is Lithuania's only border that does not adjoin Soviet territory.

Soviet officials informed their counterparts at the Polish border that the crossing from the Polish town of Ogdoniki to the Lithuanian town of Lazdijai was "temporarily" closed at 9 a.m. (0700 GMT), the Polish news agency PAP said.

Meanwhile, legislators in the Baltic Republic of Estonia, which is taking a more cautious approach to independence, passed a resolution in support of Lithuania and urged Gorbachev's demands that they renounce their

anything but the basic thing — our independence."

But the Council of Nationalities overwhelmingly approved a law on secession which would insist on exactly the sort of pre-independence conditions the Lithuanians reject.

The delegation said it was flexible about the process leading to independence. Deputy Prime Minister Romualdas Ozolas told reporters at Moscow's railway station: "We can compromise on anything but not the basic thing — our independence."

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The SPD's starting move reflected the switchback ride East German politics has been following since the hardline Communists, who had ruled for 40 years, were overthrown last year.

The leadership of the SPD, which took about 20 per cent of the vote, had fought shy of formal negotiations because the CDU insisted on having its alliance partner, the right-wing German Social Union (DSU), in the coalition.

Despite the volte-face, SPD leaders told a news conference the talks would not be an easy ride for the conservatives.

Iraqi reprisal threat draws Arab admiration

AMMAN (R) — Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's threat that if attacked he would wipe out half of Israel with chemical weapons won Arab admiration and approval Tuesday.

"We fully understand the importance of protecting the integrity of Iraq and defending its national interest," said an official Jordanian source, who asked not to be named.

"The president's speech was a measured reaction to the threats Iraq is feeling from many parts of the world," he said. "It's a message that you can't hit Iraq without a reaction."

Iraq's arch-Arab foe Syria kept silent on the Iraqi president's fiery speech Monday.

But political analysts in Amman said Hussein had struck a resonating chord among Arabs who felt humiliated by Israel's military strength, frustrated a Western support for the Jewish state and angry at the wave of Israel-bound Soviet Jewish migrants.

"The Arabs feel the whole world is against them," said Mustafa Hamarneh, a history professor at Jordanian University, describing campus reaction to the Iraqi leader's speech.

Hussein's defiant remarks made the top headlines in televi-

sion and radio news bulletins and newspapers around the Arab World.

Gulf newspapers supported his stand.

The semi-official United Arab Emirates newspaper Al Ittihad attacked the U.S. and its Western allies for condemning Iraq's chemical weapons threat.

"The U.S. and Israeli reactions to the Iraqi president's statements clearly show the injustice suffered by the Arab nation at the hands of the United States in particular and the West in general."

"If Israel acquires a nuclear, or non-nuclear weapons arsenal, America naturally remains silent because it supplies Israel with the most sophisticated arms," Al Ittihad said.

"But when Arab countries try to obtain a weapon to ensure their right of self-defence, this opens the doors to a deluge of American and Western provocative statements and threats to attack that country," it said.

"The Iraqi president's announcement to destroy half of

Israel came at the right time," Bahrain's Akhbar Al Khaleej daily said.

"Arab acquisition of chemical weapons and other missiles capable of reaching Tel Aviv marks a big change in the Arab-Israeli power balance... Iraq's statement is a declaration of Arab capability to confront Israel and its aggression."

A Palestine Liberation Orga-

nisation leader praised what he called Hussein's courage and the Iraqi army's readiness to defend itself and any Arab country from possible aggression.

"We hail President Hussein for his great speech which reflects his confidence in himself and in the strength of the Iraqi army on which he still pin great hope for liberating Palestine," Sheikh Abdul Hamid Al Sayeh, speaker of the Palestine National Council, told Reuters.

"They see the anti-Arab, anti-Muslim and anti-Palestinian events of recent months. They feel enough is enough and Saddam gave their morale a boost. Even anti-Baathists are saying Saddam is an Arab leader with vision," he said.

Jordan, a close ally of Bagh-

dad, appears to see an Iraqi

military umbrella as a deterrent to Israeli rightwingers who favour

mass expulsion of West Bank Palestinians into Jordan.

Jordan television gave prominent coverage to Hussein's speech in which he said Iraq had binary chemical weapons and would use them to retaliate for any Israeli attack.

"The Arabs need someone to say how they can defend themselves," the Jordanian official source said. "Coming from a leader who has won a war it has credibility and must be taken seriously. The West must realize it can't push Iraq around."

"Perhaps Saddam should not have boasted about his chemical weapons and just kept them for retaliation — but I welcome any military power that can stop Israel or make Soviet Jews think twice before coming to Israel," the official said.

The Arabs might have disregarded similar threats by Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi, but had respect for Iraq, he added.

"Saddam has military, oil and brain power. Arabs are ready for a power that can respond to Israel in an era of total collapse, especially after events in Eastern Europe," he said.

Jordan and Iraq belong with Egypt and North Yemen to the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC), a mainly economic

alliance formed last year. ACC foreign ministers plan to meet in Amman this week to discuss what they call Britain's anti-Iraq campaign.

Kamel Abu Jaber, a political science professor at Jordan University, said he hoped Hussein's speech would not give Israel a pretext for an attack on Iraq or Jordan.

"Iraq is reacting to the storm against it in the Western media... and cautioning Israel not to start anything," he said, recalling Israel's 1981 raid on Iraq's Osirak nuclear reactor.

Abu Jaber said Israel, not the Arabs, had introduced ballistic missiles and nuclear, chemical and biological weapons into the Middle East and had rejected all Arab peace overtures.

"The Arabs and the Palestinians are flat on their bellies begging people to persuade Israel to sit down and talk peace," he said. "Our skies are open to Israeli warplanes. How are we going to defend ourselves? Are we supposed to go to Australia?"

"Iraq's president talks with Europe in the only language which it recognises... force," Qatar's Al Sharaq newspaper said.

"Hussein's word was a warning for all against any aggression especially Israel," Kuwait's Al

Qabas daily said.

"This warning is a clear sign of Iraq's intention and reiterates Iraq will not compromise its security or principles."

"The tension in the region has risen to a boiling point... in hours or days," Kuwait's Al Rai Al Aam said.

"A preemptive Israel attack is a firm and continuous policy... This requires a quick Arab move to confront with all its resources the Israeli road towards the European," it said.

"If President Hussein's words would deter Israel from carrying out evil acts, then it was necessary. Israel might recognise that its future with the Arabs would only be through peace," the English-language Qatari Gulf Times said.

Iran calls chemical weapons a threat

NICOSIA (R) — A top Iranian official said Tuesday Iraq's possession of sophisticated chemical weapons posed a threat to Iran and complicated a peaceful solution to the Gulf war.

Ahmad Azizi, head of the Iranian delegation to a meeting of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) in Nicosia, told Reuters that Iran would take measures to defend itself.

No estimate was available of the number of foreigners still living in South Lebanon.

The Lebanese Communist Party claimed responsibility for

Robinson's assassination.

Ibrahim made the request a week after three masked gunmen

shot and killed American Christian missionary William Robinson at his home in the southern village of Rashaya Foukhar after he was accused of trying to set up an Israeli settlement.

Robinson was living in Israel's self-proclaimed "security zone" in South Lebanon. There were conflicting reports over whether he had a residence permit from Lebanese authorities.

The agency quoted Ibrahim as telling the UNIFIL delegates, "in order to preserve the prevailing trust between the southerners and UNIFIL... the peacekeepers should aid the Lebanese authority in evicting all illegal aliens living in their area of operations."

Ibrahim, the newsletter said, also asked UNIFIL to "enforce Lebanese law which does not permit foreigners to reside and buy property in an area that lies on the internationally recognized borders."

The Lebanese official, according to the report, asked UNIFIL specifically to "expel all foreigners living in the government school in Rashaya Foukhar which was controlled by Robinson." It did not disclose further details.

Rashaya Foukhar is 13

kilometres northeast of the Israeli border, inside the security zone.

Robinson, 56, a former U.S. Marine from Chicago, was buried Thursday in the Protestant cemetery in the town of Rashaya.

Several officers of the Israeli-aided South Lebanon Army militia attended the funeral.

Robinson's American widow, his four sons and 29 Lebanese children he was caring for lived in the school at Rashaya Foukhar.

The Beirut paper *Al Nida* said Mrs. Robinson, her sons and the other children have been expelled from the area. It did not say where they went. Telephone lines to South Lebanon were not operating and the report could not be confirmed.

Lebanese government wants foreigners out of SLA-controlled zone

BEIRUT (AP) — The government of Syrian-backed President Elias Hrawi has asked U.N. peacekeepers to expel foreigners living illegally in the Israeli-controlled sector of South Lebanon, it was reported Tuesday.

The state-run National News Agency said the director of the Foreign Ministry's International Affairs Department, Ahmad Ibrahim, made the request Monday to a delegation from the command of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon.

The dispatch said a two-man delegation from UNIFIL's command visited Ibrahim at his office in Muslim west Beirut Monday. It did not disclose the identities of the two delegates.

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The Lebanese Communist Party claimed responsibility for

Robinson's assassination.

The Lebanon National Resistance Front, which groups the Communist Party and 11 other groups, threatened in a statement issued a day after Robinson's assassination that "all those who try to establish enemy settlements in our land will be liquidated."

The Israelis have controlled the 10-to-16-kilometre deep enclave since they withdrew the bulk of their invading army from South Lebanon in the summer of 1985.

The zone, which extends from the Mediterranean coast in the west to the foothills of Mount

Group demands return of Arab hero's skeleton

BEIRUT (AP) — An underground group threatened in a statement published Tuesday to attack French targets unless the body of an Arab who assassinated a French revolutionary hero nearly 190 years ago is returned to the Arabs.

Meanwhile a new opinion poll showed most Israelis preferred Rabin for their next prime minister rather than Shamir or Labour Party leader Shimon Peres, who is trying to form a coalition.

The Teleskop poll of 506 Israelis in the daily *Maariv* showed 37 per cent preferred Rabin to 18.8 per cent for Peres and 16.8 per cent for Shamir.

The same group last week claimed responsibility for shooting a Polish diplomat and his wife.

"We warn the French government and give it a one-month period as of today (Monday) to return the remains of Martyr Suleiman Al Halabi to any Arab country," the statement said.

"It is essential to warn the French government before we take any action against French interests," said the 40-word statement without elaboration.

The statement did not give any information about Suleiman Al Halabi or say whether it meant the man who assassinated Napoleon Bonaparte's General Kleber in Cairo.

According to various Arab and French historical accounts, Halabi, a Syrian, was captured by French troops and executed in Cairo.

The diplomat is still recuperating at the American University Hospital in west Beirut from surgery to remove three bullets from his chest.

the following manner:

His right hand was burned, he was impaled, and his body was ordered to be left out "until it was devoured by birds of prey."

The execution was carried out in public, and Halabi reportedly endured his death stoically, reciting verses of the Koran and not complaining.

His body remained exposed for a month, then the skeleton was shipped to France where it remains, in the anatomy room of the Jardin des Plantes, a well-known natural history museum in Paris.

There was no immediate word from French authorities on whether security was tightened at the Jardin des Plantes, a popular museum for children and adults alike.

Kleber's embalmed body was returned to France and buried in Strasbourg.

Napoleon's army invaded Egypt in 1798 in the first such European excursion into the Arab World in modern history, but the last remnants of his forces withdrew three years later with no military gain. His scientists brought back a treasure-trove of information.

Last Friday, the Beirut underground group claimed responsibility for shooting the Polish commercial attaché and his wife in mainly Muslim west Beirut and warned Poland against helping Soviet Jews travel to Israel.

The diplomat is still recuperating at the American University Hospital in west Beirut from surgery to remove three bullets from his chest.

Chad rebels claim heavy government losses

PARIS (AP) — Chadian rebels

Tuesday claimed they inflicted heavy losses on government troops in recent battles along the country's eastern border with Sudan.

The rebels issued a statement saying they had killed "several hundred" troops and taken about 1,000 prisoners in attacks on garrisons at Tine, Iriba and Baisai.

"A large quantity of military supplies was captured or destroyed, notably T-55 tanks, 12 transports... about 50 all-terrain Toyotas and several trucks," the statement said.

Leading the rebels is a former commander-in-chief of the government forces, Idress Deby, the statement said.

There was no immediate comment by the government in N'Djamena.

The rebel communiqué gave the first indication of fighting at Iriba, about 60 kilometres from the border with Sudan's Darfur province.

Other reports reaching Paris said the garrison at Guereba also had been attacked in the last 48 hours.

President Hissene Habre's government last week reported attacks by the Libyan-backed Islamic Legion against Baiha and Tine. No casualties or other details were disclosed.

The rebels reportedly are equipped with all-terrain vehicles mounted with machineguns or multiple rocket launchers. Their tactic is to sweep down on a government outpost, overwhelm it and destroy what can't be taken.

France last week reinforced its 100-man detachment in eastern Chad with a company of 146 paratroopers, a transport aircraft and a second military surgical unit.

The Defence Ministry in Paris said the measures were taken "in agreement with Chadian authorities" and conformed with the "dissuasive and defensive" guidelines of French intervention in its former African colony.

France has about 1,000 soldiers in Chad, down from 2,700 in mid-1986 at the height of conflict between President Hissene Habre's government and Libya.

No change in plight of hostages — Iran

NICOSIA (R) — Demands by kidnappers of Western hostages in Lebanon should be met before any release of the captives, an influential Iranian member of parliament said Tuesday.

"They (kidnappers) have certain conditions which have to be met before the hostages can be released," said Ahmad Azizi, leading the Iranian delegation to an Inter-Parliamentary Union meeting in Cyprus.

He told Reuters prospects for the 17 Western hostages in Lebanon

non, including eight Americans, had not improved despite a call in March by the pro-government Tehran Times for their unconditional release.

Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani said in March the issue was moving towards a solution and a Foreign Ministry official said the captives could be freed by the end of this year.

"I see no change in the situation. It remains the same as before," Azizi said.

Israel denies rush to build settlements

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel, rebuffing U.S. criticism, denied Tuesday it was racing to erect new Jewish settlements on occupied Arab lands.

"We are not rushing now to build new settlements. We are not going to exploit the situation," Yossi Ahimeir, chief of Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's staff, told Reuters.

The U.S. State Department attacked Shamir Monday over reports he planned to speed up settlement now that the Labour Party had quit his government over his failure to open peace talks with Palestinians.

Washington views as "an obstacle to peace" the 70,000 Jews living among the 1.75 million Palestinians of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, occupied since the 1967 Middle East War.

"It's disturbing that an Israeli leader which was unable to

reject reports that Palestinians were to be allowed to settle in the occupied territories," the statement said.

Leaders of the pro-democracy movement fear the government might call elections under new rules that would prevent a repetition of practices it saw as divisive by the previous parliament dissolved in 1986.

The Defence Ministry in Paris said the measures were taken "in agreement with Chadian authorities" and conformed with the "dissuasive and defensive" guidelines of French intervention in its former African colony.

"The 1962 constitution has become the cornerstone of modern Kuwait and an example aspired to by the peoples of the region for

its relative freedoms derived from Islamic teachings," a joint statement by Kuwait University's seven political student groups said Saturday.

One activist said 13 professional associations sent a separate petition to the Emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, Monday calling for respect of the 1962 constitution.

Out
d 20
Borders on alert for missing
Qasr Al Hallabat antiquity

Millennium-old mosaic stolen

AMMAN (Agencies) — Thieves have stolen an early Islamic mosaic floor from one of Jordan's desert castles and the Ministry of Tourism has offered a handsome reward to anyone providing information that could lead to its recovery.

A statement by the Ministry of Tourism Tuesday said that the thieves took 30 square metres of mosaic, representing the "tree of life" from Qasr Al Hallabat and the theft must have occurred last Sunday during the rainstorm in Jordan.

The mosaic floor, perhaps 1,200 years old shows a variety of animal, human, floral and geometric motifs dating back to the Umayyad era in the first half of the eighth century AD.

Minister of Tourism Abdul Karim Al Kababri was quoted as saying that an alert went out to border points after the theft

was discovered Monday.

"The mosaic floor was part of the nation's cultural and historic wealth and it is hoped that the public can provide information that would lead to the recovery of the stolen property or to the identification of those irresponsible people who stole the mosaic floor," the ministry statement added.

Qasr Al Hallabat is the most ruined of all the big desert castles in Jordan. Located 25 kilometres north east of Zarqa, about an hour's drive from Amman, the castle was first the site of an early second century AD Roman fort or watch tower that helped protect the western hills and plains of modern Jordan against attacks from the east.

Inscriptions in the castle show that it was rebuilt as a major installation during the



A file photo of the stolen mosaic

reign of the Roman emperor Caracalla, around 212-215 AD. It was refurbished once again in the Byzantine period and finally reached its height as an Umayyad complex in the centuries 7 and 8 AD. The Umayyad patrons of the castle decorated it with elaborate

mosaics and frescoes. Commenting on the theft, president of Jordan's Friends of Archaeology group, Rami Khouri, said the mosaic which lay in a now roofless room, was important mainly for scholars interested in evidence of cultural continuity between late

Byzantine and early Islamic art. "This shows why Jordan should give a higher priority to its antiquities," Khouri said. "The government must give the antiquities department the money and the means to protect such sites," Khouri added.

Rice deal case goes to court; witness testimonies delayed

By a Jordan Times
Staff Writer

AMMAN — The first case involving alleged official corruption has gone to court but the first hearing was postponed because of non-availability of witnesses, legal sources said Tuesday.

The source said the criminal court of Amman Monday postponed hearing the case of former Ministry of Supply Undersecretary Abdulla Hawamdeh and a local company for alleged mismanagement and corruption because witnesses either did not turn up or were too late for the session, prompting the panel of two judges, Mohammad Saeed Al Rakib and Faud Sweidan, to postpone the hearing until next Monday.

No witnesses testified at the

session, but they include Ministry of Supply staff and private merchants. "It is expected that around 20 witnesses will testify in all," said another source. All sources spoke to the Jordan Times on condition of anonymity.

At the Monday session, Hawamdeh, released on JD 250,000 bail last month, and the National Company for Development and Finance, were formally charged, the sources said. Both parties denied the charges.

Hawamdeh, who retired from service last year, is charged with article 175 of the criminal code — abusing an official position for profit-seeking, and with 80/2, a complementary article. The company is charged as an accessory,

according to the source. The case involves alleged misuse of funds and embezzlement related to a government purchase of rice in April 1989 worth over \$700,000, official sources said. The exact amount allegedly embezzled is not known.

Hawamdeh and his lawyers, who include Saleh Jaroudi, Khalil Araji and Hisham Al Tal, and the company represented by Ibrahim Bakr will base their defence on the argument that the treasury did not suffer any losses in the rice deal since "prices were properly readjusted after the tender was awarded and the necessary allocation was made," said one of the sources. "The defendants will try to prove that the original tender was not tampered with," the source said.

More potash exports expected for 1990

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Arab Potash Company (APC) has signed contracts to sell its production of potash from now until the end of September mostly to Asian nations, according to a company statement here Tuesday.

The statement said that the company recently signed agreements with India, Malaysia, Taiwan, South Korea and China to sell them additional quantities of potash during 1990.

The deals were concluded during a tour of these countries by a company team led by APC managing director Ali Ensour.

The total amount of potash to be sold according to these deals, the statement said, is worth \$75 million.

APC is jointly owned by Jordan and three Arab countries in addition to the Arab Mining Company and the Islamic Development Bank.

His tour came in the wake of an announcement here that APC had signed contracts with a major investment company to conduct detailed feasibility studies on expanding the company's production capacity.

APC produced 1.25 million tonnes of potash in 1989 and plans to produce 1.35 million tonnes this year and 2.25 million tonnes on an annual basis starting with 1990.

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Organ donations — the unseen scene

By Saeda Kilani
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Only five cases of cornea donations by Jordanians have taken place in Jordan in the past ten years. Contribution of body organs has remained a taboo in Jordanian traditions and it was not until His Majesty King Hussein recently raised the issue that the media, along with all societies concerned, brought out the subject into the open, and many people have signed up as organ donors after death.

But, there seems to be very little legality to such undertakings, and too little coordination among the various parties involved to follow up the matter.

In the past few weeks or so, the case of an eight-year-old has become the focus of attention of the local press, the Jordan Television and the radio simply because King Hussein took a particular interest in his case and contributed to send him to Germany to undergo surgery.

Until the case surfaced, the issue of organ donations had only assumed peripheral interest in Jordan, except perhaps for occasional heart and kidney transplants, and "the Kingdom's need have always relied on foreign sources (Denmark is one) for human organs," according to Ibrahim Ayesh, head of the ophthalmology department in the Al Hussein Medical Centre.

Since 1979 until now, "there have been only five operations of cornea donated by Jordanians," affirms Nafeha Rasheed Al Khader, head of the Eye Bank in Jordan, "while more than 500 operations have taken place relying on imports of corneas."

The new found enthusiasm apparently began when the father of the eight-year-old child, Jaafar Issam Al Momani, told the call-in live programme at the radio station about his son's dire need of cornea. Jaafar had been suffering for five years from blindness in one eye and the absence of vision in the other one.

More than thirteen operations had been tried on the boy, but with no effect. He was on the edge of losing his sight until King Hussein adopted the case.



Eight-year-old Jaafar Al Momani and his doctor Butros Tawil and family members.



Radio Jordan publicised the case through its local and foreign transmissions, and several Jordanian listeners in West Germany stepped forward with a helping hand.

A quick response came from the plastic surgeon, Dr. Butros Al Tawil, and his wife Rihab, guaranteeing to provide Jaafar with all help and affection needed. A very kind gesture also came from Dr. H. Busse from Munster Hospital in Germany with an offer to provide the cornea needed free of charge. The Christian churches in Lingen offered DM 1,300 towards the cost of the operation.

According to Mohammad Khalil, a schoolteacher, "the best way to honour the deceased person is to bury him without extracting his organs or disturbing his body."

Experts believe that this misguided belief, widely shared by many, is an area that should be addressed in a comprehensive manner. A pamphlet issued by the Friends of the Jordanian Eye Bank Society, which includes several leading religious scholars, affirms that Islam permits organ donations. It cites Islamic hadiths to support the argument and points out that organ donations could be considered as charity.

In any event, there has been a dramatic rise in offers of organ donations after Jaafar's case hit the headlines in February. "Five cases in eleven years have risen to hundreds and thousands in the past few weeks," according to Ibrahim Ayesh, public relations director of the National Medical Institution and a member of the Eye Bank.

First of all, the donation cards signed by potential donors cannot be considered legal, according to Ayed Hijazi, public relations director of the National Medical Institution and a member of the Eye Bank.

donations other than Jaafar," said a leading social worker who refused to be identified. The consensus that emerged in Jordan Times' interview with many doctors and social workers is that there is a pervading belief among the people that donating human organs is something to be avoided since religious beliefs suggest that it may affect the deceased person.

Hundreds of calls offering corneas clogged the telephone lines after King Hussein offered to donate his corneas, and these offers spilled over to the Eye Bank and leading hospitals, including the Al Hussein Medical Centre and the University of Jordan Hospital.

The problem also partially owes its origins to the existence of separate societies dealing with donations and transplants of human organs. For example, if someone wants to donate all his or her organs, he or she has to deal with three different organisations: The Eye Bank, the Friends of the Kidney Society and the Farah Heart Centre. But the process does not end there; when the donor dies, his or her family has to get in touch with all the organisations concerned in order to perform the necessary extractions; a process which does not allow for any wasted time.

While the importance of contributing human organs and how much it affects the life of many people has been highlighted in the process, it is difficult to pinpoint the genuineness of the offers and to ensure that genuine ones are followed up, according to many senior officials who spoke to the Jordan Times on condition of anonymity. One of the main impediments in the process is the lack of concerted coordination between the Department of Civil Status, which handles documentation related to births and deaths among other things, and the Eye Bank.

"It is really important that all the institutions unify and form one institution that is responsible for everything," Hijazi suggests. "Once such an organisation is set up, then in cooperation with the Civil Status Department, we could guarantee that all the process will be legal and profitable, and no one, not even the parents, can impede such a process or even protest," he added.

Jordan's first private university opens in 1991

By Hama Darwazah
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The first private university in Jordan will open its doors to at least one thousand students in January 1991 with a ten-year plan to provide higher education for 8,000 students.

Expatriates have been discussing the possibility of establishing a national university since the first expatriate conference in Jordan in 1987, but it took someone as dedicated as Dr. Seif Eddin Al Ramahi to translate this desire into reality.

"The university will also try to provide scholarships for exceptional and gifted needy students through sports or academic scholarships for example," Ramahi told the Jordan Times in an interview.

The campus will be located on a 1,000 dunum piece of land somewhere in the Amman area, the site of which has not been announced yet.

The eventual plan for the campus includes the necessary classrooms, lecture halls, dormitories, cafeterias, laboratories, a gymnasium, a big sports area, a computer centre, a football stadium, tennis courts, swimming pool, and horses stables.

The ten-year plan also includes a university city that includes facilities for the families visiting the students.

The university's main student body will be composed of expatriates. Students from abroad wishing to enroll will be expected to pay their tuition in dollars while local students may use the local currency.

The university plans to make mandatory a certain number of courses focusing on Arab, Islamic, and Jordanian culture, in addition to its ten-year plan however, will allow for a capacity of 8,000 students.

The ASU will accept students from all over the world provided they pass an entrance exam.

According to Ramahi, the university will have variable quotas of acceptance in its faculties at various times to accommodate the changing needs of the workmarket.

Ramahi said that the university will not try to compete with the existing universities but rather to complement them to offer the Arab student a more qualitative and quantitative choice.

The university will seek to work out a successful compromise between the need to use the English language especially in its applied science fields, and the restrictions placed upon it by the Ministry of Higher Education in using Arabic as its basic teaching languages. It will try to incorporate its own ideas within the set framework.

telecommunication and its academy of diplomacy, international law and languages.

The university will also offer 2-4 year courses in various technical skills such as electronic maintenance, carpentry, shoe making and so on in its college of further education and technical careers.

"One of the basic aims of the university is to turn back and prevent the flow of 'brain drain', endemic in the Arab World," Ramahi said in the interview.

According to Ramahi, the ASU is a private university funded by the Arab International Company for Education and Investment which will incorporate two sister institutes, one of which will be in charge of the academic aspects of the university, and the other will look after and invest in the university's funds which are to be used to cover any future deficits of the university.

The Arab International Company for Education and Investment held its first general shareholders' meeting and elected its first board of directors with Ramahi elected as president of the board on April 2.

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Jordan to celebrate earth day with major campaign

By a Jordan Times Reporter

and garbage, including discarded tyres from the sides of the country's highways.

"The plastic company will buy all the used tyres with a price much higher than it costs," said Sharaf, vice-president of the Royal Society for the Conservation of the Nature.

"The overall emphasis in the day's activities will be the importance of protecting the nature and the environment," said Sharaf. "There will be some sort of a legislation that will prevent people from dumping garbage in the streets. Furthermore, we have cooperated with the traffic department to initiate the process of having containers inside cars," she added.

Minister explains price hike

AMMAN — Jordan will join celebrations of International Earth Day which falls on April 22 with a major campaign with special emphasis on protection of nature and the environment.

The lead in the campaign has been taken by the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature. A committee has been formed by Her Majesty Queen Noor and includes representatives of various ministries and departments, including the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment, the Ministry of Agriculture as well as the Public Security Department and dozens of other interested organisations and institutions.

Many activities will take place in various regions in the Kingdom to mark International Earth Day, which is observed every 10 years. These include cleaning campaigns, conferences, seminars, exhibitions and other activities carried out by school students to focus the attention of the public on the serious dangers facing Jordan and threatening its environment, Laila Sharaf, a member of the Upper House of Parliament and a former minister of information, announced at a press conference Tuesday.

One of the highlights of the activities is a drive, with the participation of about 10,000 to 20,000 students, to remove debris

Police nab suspect in Jabal Amman murder

AMMAN (Petra) — Police Tuesday announced the capture of a 25-year-old man identified only as RMA who had murdered a 67-year-old woman in the Fifth Circle area of Jabal Amman last month.

A Public Security Department (PSD) statement said that the man had strangled the victim with a rope which was found around her neck. The murder occurred on March 28, according to the

statement. The statement did not reveal the motives behind the murder, but sources available to the Jordan Times said that the man who used to work as a guard at a foreign ambassador's residence in Amman got away with a large sum of money after killing the woman, identified by the police only as SJ.

The victim was alone in the house at the time of the murder.

WHAT'S GOING ON

EXHIBITIONS

★ An exhibition by seven Iraqi artists at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation (10 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.)

★ Art exhibition by Ahmed Nawash at the French Cultural Centre.

★ Exhibition entitled "Man and Land" by Jordanian artist Khalil Ghawamneh at the Royal Cultural Centre.

★ Exhibitions of paintings and photos that depict the development of the Jordanian Armed Forces at the Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST).

★ Exhibition entitled "The Productive Families" displaying embroidery, ceramics, woolen clothes and foodstuffs at Al Qadisiyya Community College.

★ The Islamic book exhibition which includes books on Islam, literature, psychology, sociology, education, philosophy, law and history at Yarmouk University.

THEATRE

★ Arabic children's play entitled "Tales from My Grandmother's Chest" at the Royal Cultural Centre — 10:00 a.m.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation
Established 1975

جordan Times جريدة عربية يومية مستقلة تصدر باللغة الإنجليزية في الأردن

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The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.
Subscription and advertising rates are available from the
Jordan Times advertising department.

Crying wolf won't work

IRAQ IS and has been the victim of one long chain of conspiracies that date back to the point in time when it started to show signs of real strength and genuine independence. Under its current leadership, the country transformed itself into a regional power to reckon with, and this of course does not please many powers, especially Israel. Thus began the chorus of attacks on Iraq in a bid to frustrate its aim to remain free from superpower tutelage.

The sneak Israeli attack on Iraq's nuclear facility in 1981 and the subsequent eruption of an eight-year quagmire of fire and destruction between Iran and Iraq are but part and parcel of this continuous grand design on Iraq in an effort to bleed it to death before it has sufficient time to stand fully on its feet. The recent well-orchestrated smear attacks on Iraq for allegedly seeking to acquire triggering devices for nuclear bombs have to be viewed in the context of this determination to prevent Iraq from standing tall in regional power politics. The enemies of the Arab World have gotten used to Arab countries accepting their whims and dictates and whenever any Arab state attempts to stand up to them, conspiracies of all sorts and kinds are unleashed against them. For all intents and purposes, therefore, the sinister designs on Iraq, especially from Tel Aviv, are also directed against the entire Arab Nation and aim to discredit and undermine the Arab World from the ocean to the Gulf. That is why the Arab countries are called upon to stand by Iraq in its present crisis and make it known to all players in this continuing conspiracy against Iraq that any attack on Iraq of whatever form or shape will be construed as an attack on the Arab World and will be met with collective Arab will and determination. The days when the Arab countries are left at the mercy of Israel and its arsenal of weapons are over for ever. If Israel and all those powers that stand behind it are genuinely concerned about preventing a conflagration in the Middle East in which mass destructive weapons are projected to be used, all they have to do is to promote a negotiated peace between the two sides on honourable and legitimate grounds in the context of an international conference. Otherwise, Israel and its allies would be flirting with danger the kind and scale of which they have not yet even contemplated. Instead of crying wolf every time an Arab country tries to stand on its feet and for its rights and progress, the concerned parties would be better advised to convince Israel, first, to sign and ratify the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and second, to accept the convening of an international conference to settle the broader Arab-Israeli conflicts once and for all.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i Arabic daily on Tuesday says that the war option is not restricted to the enemies of the Arab Nation alone, but is the right of all Arabs when their security and their future is in danger. Mahmoud Al Rimawi says that Iraq has been threatened by war from Israel and it was only fair to say that Baghdad has issued a retaliatory threat to launch a war on Israel should it decide to launch an adventure on Iraqi territory. The writer says that the Israeli leaders who are now involved in reviewing the Iraqi president's statement on television about Iraq's readiness to launch a reprisal, should realize that the only alternative to peace is war, and that they are invited to choose between the two. Rimawi recalls that the Israelis launched a raid on the Iraqi reactor in 1981, and says that the aggression was launched when Iraq was involved in a war with Iran and that the raid was unprovoked. This raid has aroused the Iraqi people's wrath because it proved to them that as the Iranians were trying to occupy Arab land, they found allies in Israel and the West who tried to help Iran achieve its goals, the writer adds. He says that the Iraqis have on more than one occasion made it clear that the circumstances under which Israel launched the raid can never recur, and that no one can from now on launch an act of aggression and get away with it. The writer says that the enemies of the Arab Nation should heed the Iraqi leaders' warning and refrain from any adventure.

Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's statement to the nation on Monday was tantamount to a reply by the Arab Nation to the enemies defiance in the arrogance of the Israeli leaders and their Western allies, said Al Ra'i Arabic daily Tuesday. The paper said that the president chose the right moment to reply to the threats levelled against the Arab Nation by its enemies. The Israelis and their allies had imagined that Iraq would be weak after the eight-year old war and would not be able to meet the new challenge, the paper noted. It said that Zionism had thought that Baghdad would succumb to blackmail and would accept Israeli terms and conditions. The Israelis and their allies had not thought that Iraq is now far stronger than at any time in the past despite the war with Iran, and had thought would easily play with fire and impose their siege and intimidation on Baghdad, the paper continued. Iraq is keen on achieving peace; but would not succumb to blackmail and would not accept any threats and intimidations, the paper added.

Al Dustour daily said Tuesday that Saddam Hussein's address on television Monday awakened the Arab masses longing for a stand marked by pride, and his reply to the challenge posed by Israel rekindled hopes that the Arab Nation can and should do something in reply to the threats of aggression on the Arab Nation. The paper said that the speech quenched the thirst of the Arab masses who are fed up with mere statements reflecting "unanimous Arab agreements" which are worth nothing because they are not implemented in the least. The paper said that Saddam Hussein's open and candid reply to the Israeli is bound to end the enemy's disregard to the Arab Nation and bound to take the Arab World into a new stage in which it will have to repel aggression, not in word but in deeds.

History of American administration ambiguity over Jerusalem status

By Donald Neff

THERE is a sense of the epic about the clash developing between the United States and Israel, between George Bush and Yitzhak Shamir, over the status of Jerusalem. The long fingers of history touch the controversy is foreboding ways.

Both Bush and Shamir are not only well versed in the issue but they bring passions to it beyond the usual in disagreements between the two countries. Thus when the President of the United States deliberately equated East (Arab) Jerusalem with territory occupied by Israel in his news conference March 3, he struck at the heart of the most sensitive issue dividing the two countries. Now could he have been surprised when Shamir responded defiantly with his statement that Jerusalem "is part of Israel and it will never be divided again."

What provoked Bush into his bold assertion about Jerusalem was his suspicion that Shamir was trying to hoodwink him about the placement of Jewish Soviet immigrants pouring into Israel, Bush, as U.N. ambassador in 1971, has presided over the only time the U.S. supported a resolution condemning Israel's claim to Jerusalem, so he was well aware of its status in the world community as occupied territory. It is the one issue in the Middle East tangle that Bush has demonstrated he cares deeply about, characterising in his press conference his opposition to settlements as "our strongly held view."

The spark that ignited the outburst by the usually cautious Bush was a recent CIA report informing him Israel's claim that less than one per cent of the Soviet immigrants were being settled in the occupied territories was only partly true, covering only the West Bank. The fact was, the report pointed out, another ten per cent were being herded into settlements established by Israel since 1967 in East Jerusalem on land originally belonging to Palestinians.

Bush was so angered by the CIA report that he had it before him when he held an unpleasant telephone conversation with Shamir on February 22, Shamir had called to soothe Bush's concerns about the residency of the Soviets and assured the president that reports about putting them in settlements were not true. When Bush retorted by quoting from the CIA report, Shamir sputtered and insisted that Jerusalem didn't count since it

was Israeli territory. Bush took offence at that claim and the telephone call ended in mutual acrimony. After hanging up Bush reportedly turned to his aides and growled that Shamir must take him for a fool.

A little more than a week later Bush pointedly mentioned East Jerusalem when he referred to Israel's occupied territories. In Bush's words: "My position is that the foreign policy of the United States says we do not believe there should be new settlements in the West Bank or in East Jerusalem."

Since then the uproar has been gathering passion and both sides have refused to back down, although the Bush administration seems to be scuttling to partial refuge by insisting that there has been no change in U.S. policy. This declaration was in itself something of an equivocation since U.S. policy on Jerusalem over the years has been anything but clear. It has zigged and zagged, depending on the occupant of the White House and the state of relations with Israel. This has not been the case with Israeli policy. Its policy has been firm, unyielding and aggressive in its claim to Jerusalem as its "eternal" capital.

Israeli determination

As far back as 1948 that claim had produced bloodshed. It was in support of Israel's claim to Jerusalem that in part motivated the assassination in 1948 of U.N. mediator Count Folke Bernadotte because he opposed such a claim. The extraordinary relevance of that act to today's burgeoning controversy is that the assassins of Bernadotte were members of the Stern Gang, the radical Jewish terrorist group, one of whose leaders is today the prime minister of Israel, Yitzhak Shamir.

Israel's other actions have been no less forceful about its policy. As early as mid-September 1948, in the middle of war — and when it was assumed by the world that Israel in accepting U.N. partition also accepted its designation of Jerusalem as an international city — Israel's Supreme Court was established in Jerusalem. On December 20, 1948, with combat still continuing, the Israeli cabinet officially decided to move "government institutions" to Jerusalem from Tel Aviv. Israel's parliament held its first session in Jerusalem on February 14, 1949 and three days later Dr. Chaim Weizmann took his oath of office there as Israel's first president. At the time, Israel's

first leader, David Ben Gurion, announced that "Jerusalem is an inseparable part of Israel and her eternal capital." Privately he boasted to the U.S. ambassador, James G. McDonald: "It would take an army to get Jews out of Jerusalem; and the only army I see willing to occupy Jerusalem is Russia's."

When Israel finally achieved its long term goal of capturing all of Jerusalem in 1967, it immediately expanded dramatically the city limits by extending the boundaries northward nine miles and southward ten miles, increasing its size from twenty-seven square miles to sixty-seven. Areas densely

populated by Palestinians were omitted while the unpopulated Palestinian fields abutting Arab villages were incorporated into Jerusalem, thus assuring a continuing Jewish majority in the newly enlarged city. The population in 1947 when the U.N. partitioned Palestine was about 100,000 Arabs and 105,000 Jews. Today it is around 140,000 Arabs and about 350,000 Jews, including 120,000 Jews living on expropriated Arab territory in an encircling series of concrete complexes that look more like modern fortresses than apartment buildings.

Washington's conflicting attitudes

Jerusalem obviously is not some side issue, nor is it a domestic political issue in Israel; every government has exerted itself to secure Jerusalem. It is the core of the dispute between the U.S. and Israel, symbolically representing how far the U.S. is willing to go in supporting Israel's claims to Palestinian territory. From the beginning the U.S. attitude has been confused, supporting the 1947 Partition

plan's declaration of Jerusalem as a "corpus separatum," an international city belonging to neither Arab nor Jew, to oppose two years later to a General Assembly resolution that merely restated Jerusalem's status as an international city. This change in U.S. policy was explained at the time as not a retreat from principle but on the pragmatic ground "that it was unrealistic as it could not be implemented by the United Nations against the wishes of Israel and Jordan without the use of substantial forces," in the words of a state department memorandum.

"Bush was so angered by the CIA report that he had it before him when he held an unpleasant telephone conversation with Shamir on 22 February, Shamir had called to soothe Bush's concerns about the residency of the Soviets and assured the president that reports about putting them in settlements were not true. When Bush retorted by quoting from the CIA report, Shamir sputtered and insisted that Jerusalem didn't count since it was Israeli territory. Bush took offence at that claim and the telephone call ended in mutual acrimony. After hanging up Bush reportedly turned to his aides and growled that Shamir must take him for a fool."

This was at a time when Henry Kissinger was still only the national security adviser, before he convened to push Rogers from office and skewed U.S. policy totally to Israel's desires. The important point is that the exposure of Bush to this issue clearly impressed him on its importance and subtleties, and since then has obviously stayed with him.

Will the real U.S. policy please stand up

Jimmy Carter sought to use the same tactic in 1980 to get Israel to halt its insistent settlement policy, but he was deep in his desperate campaign for reelection and finally was forced to back down. On March 1, the Security Council unanimously passed Resolution 465 condemning Israel's settlements as illegal, "including Jerusalem." U.S. Ambassador Donald F. McHenry added that "we regard settlements in the occupied territories as illegal under international law..." The uproar in the Jewish community and Israel was such that two days later Carter announced the U.S. vote had been a mistake and should have been an abstention. When Israel formally annexed Jerusalem just five months before the presidential election, the weakened and humiliated president stood by passively and then lost the election anyway.

All this confusion about the real U.S. policy was made moot by Ronald Reagan who entered office declaring without any apparent indications of knowing the import of his words that "settlements are not illegal." As for Jerusalem, the issue never formally arose during his eight years in office. But there was little doubt that Reagan and his secretaries of state, Alexander Haig and George Shultz, were all so pro-Israel that they approved whatever Israel wanted to do in Jerusalem and anywhere else.

With such a background, Israel and Shamir, in particular can be excused for being furious at Bush. From their view, they had long ago won the battle over Jerusalem with Washington. How else could they read the repeated abstentions in the U.N. the docile acceptance of Israel's settlements in the city, the acquiescence to formal annexation and, despite this, the continuation of lavish U.S. aid?

Whether George Bush will now stand by his principles — as Jimmy Carter did not — is the intriguing question in a sorry story of diplomacy by "pragmatism" — Middle East International, London.

Le Pen comes in from the cold

By Nicholas Kotek
Reuter

NICE, France — By turning the immigration issue into a national obsession, France's figurehead of the far-right, Jean-Marie Le Pen, has achieved the first great objective of his chequered political career.

His National Front has succeeded in pushing race and immigration issues into every cafe and living-room, and dragging established parties reluctantly into a debate.

"I say out loud what most people think but dare not say," Le Pen said in 1983, the year before the front made its first breakthrough by polling 11 per cent in European elections.

Now the unsayable is uttered every day.

The front came of age in Nice this weekend, 18 years after le Pen and a handful of friends on the extreme right founded it.

Dismissed for years as a xenophobic demagogue, le Pen has advocated slashing unemployment by repatriating immigrants — mostly North Africans. His message has struck a chord with a growing number of French whites.

Le Pen became the youngest French parliamentarian in 1956, representing the party of extreme right-winger Pierre Poujade at the age of 27.

Later that year he became a paratrooper officer in the colonial army in Algeria and has been dogged by charges of torture sessions during fights with nationalist guerrillas in Algiers.

His political success in France began in 1983 town hall elections and European elections in 1984, when the front polled more than 10 per cent. Le Pen was returned to parliament in March 1986 at the head of a party with 35 seats.

He stood as a presidential candidate in 1988, but costly gaffes marred his career.

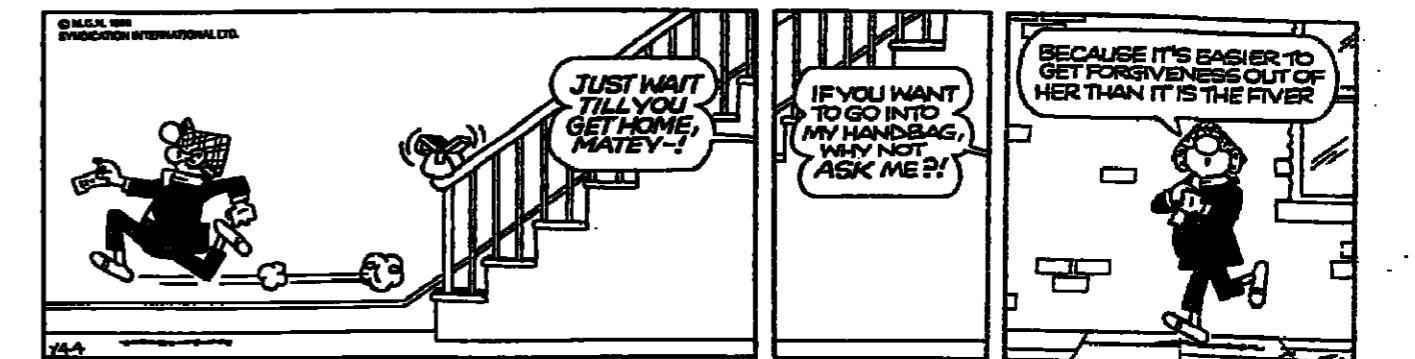
He is now facing prosecution for anti-Semitic remarks which have also led the European parliament to lift his immunity.

His private life has been no less controversial. His estranged wife Pierrette posed nude with a mop in the French edition of Playboy magazine, apparently in response to an aside by le Pen that she ought to earn her living by housekeeping.

Mutt'n Jeff



Andy Capp



Peanuts



OUT OF FOCUS

Fortnightly addiction

By Adnan Saeed Aqil

THE OTHER DAY, I found a colleague totally engrossed in scanning a newspaper, so much so that he was oblivious to my continued attempt to greet him. It took several "sabab al khair" to jolt him out of his preoccupation. "I am getting close to it," he said, with a casual glance at me from a deadly serious face. Well, what was that he had missed; an appointment as an ambassador, perhaps? He made a couple of circles with his pen on the newspaper and beckoned to me. "Look, I scrapped it by two numbers," he said, holding one half of a lottery ticket and pointing to the circles in the paper; results of the fortnightly lottery. "A seven instead of a three and a five instead of an eight, and I would have won JD 2,500," he said. "You know, it happens to me every time — a near miss. Sometimes it is JD 10,000 and some other times it is at least JD 500."

Well, he missed only JD 1,250 this time, I told him, since he had only one half of a ticket. "Would it have been bad?" he peered at me, apparently unable to figure out whether I was pulling his leg. Of course not, I assured him, but then JD 1,250 would not have fetched him much these days, what with the present cost of living.

"That's true," he conceded. "In 1987 I could have bought a decent used Japanese car, say 1980 or 1981 model, for JD 1,250. Now, I would be lucky to get a used engine for the amount."

He should be thankful for not having ended up with a used car engine, I pointed out. "Of course, I would have found a million other ways to spend JD 1,250," he corrected me.

He examined his lottery ticket and the winning numbers for a few more minutes, pushed away the newspaper, tucked away the ticket inside his wallet and then turned back to me. Noting my eyebrows raised at his wallet, he hastily explained: "Who knows, they could have made a mistake and might run a correction tomorrow. I am not taking any chances by throwing away the ticket."

"Do you know that I once won JD 500?" he asked. Did he really? "That must have been some 10 years ago," he recalled, pleasant memories lighting up his face. "I bought a lot of clothes for my brother and myself, had several lunches and dinners out, and still there was a little bit left. Today, a couple of suits and shirts, some socks and underwear, and the JD 500 is gone before you can decide on a restaurant for lunch."

What would he be buying? Cold-braided jackets and silver-lined underwear? I wanted to ask, but thought better of it.

As he sat there, with a dreamy look in his eyes, I could not help but ask: Is there any formula behind his coming up with near-misses?

"I wish I had," he replied. "This is no racing, you know."

"There's one thing though," he added. What was that?

"Ask me why I buy half tickets instead of full ones," he assumed an intelligent look. Why was he buying half tickets instead of full ones? I was forced to ask.

"It is simple; I'm betting on the luck of the guy who buys the other half."

King defends Iraqi stand

(Continued from page 1) not only because of its content and timing, but because it contradicts the position which the United States maintained since 1967, that considers Jerusalem an integral part of the occupied Arab territories," he said.

"The pretenses on which the Senate based its resolution, which constituted the introduction to the resolution, are a series of fabrications that are scarcely worthy of refutation. They are among the misconceptions that Israel sought to spread, which the successive American administrations since 1967 rejected. Israel's declaration of Jerusalem as a united city and the capital of Israel is a departure from international legitimacy which contradicts United Nations Security Council Resolutions 242, as well as a blatant contravention of international law which forbids occupying or annexing another people's territory by force," the King said.

"The second fabrication contained in the Senate resolution is that Israeli citizens of all faiths were prevented from visiting the holy places in East Jerusalem between 1948 and 1967. This is a situation imposed by force.

"The third pretext is based on Jerusalem having been a united city and the capital of Israel since 1967, where people of all faiths have access to their holy places. This is a very dangerous fabrication that seeks to legitimise a situation imposed by force.

"The Senate resolution is the product of all these fabrications. It contradicts the policy of the successive United States administrations since 1967, and contravenes international law. It cannot serve the cause of peace, particularly because it deals with the issue of Jerusalem, which is one of the most sensitive."

Iraq calls for Arab meeting

(Continued from page 1)

The official termed Hussein's tough words "a clear warning" and added: "We don't want to give anyone the idea that Iraq would not retaliate in the same kind."

"Israel is fully aware that we have no intention to attack Israel," he said.

In Geneva, Iraq indicated it will not join a global ban of chemical arms unless it is linked to nuclear disarmament.

While denying again that it sought to obtain triggers for nuclear warheads, it charged that the rights of developing countries were being violated by embargos on transfer of products and know-how that could be used in

the production of chemical weapons.

Iraqi chief delegate Abdul Rahim Al Khalil made the comments in addressing the Geneva conference on disarmament.

Khalil said Iraq can "have every right to acquire the means needed to defend itself." He said a treaty banning the use, production and stockpiling of chemical weapons "would be widely supported if it contains a binding commitment incumbent on nuclear weapon states."

These, he said, should be pledged to enact nuclear disarmament measures "as a corollary to chemical disarmament" and not to resort to the use of nuclear arms.

Israelis launch satellite

(Continued from page 1)

bomb, might use the issue to launch a pre-emptive strike.

Arens said Israel would seek to mobilise world opinion about the "danger" of Iraq's chemical weapons.

President Hussein's warning dominated the Israeli news. His statement and Israeli leaders' counter-threats led every newspaper and the state-run broadcast stations.

Michael Dekel, an aide to Shaiur and former deputy defence minister, said he urged the prime minister to quickly order distribution of gas masks now in warehouses.

Discrimination against women: When will it end?

By Fakhri Kawar

WHY CAN'T a woman go to the passports department and obtain a passport without taking the permission of her father, husband, brother or any other man who is deemed "responsible" for her? And why can't she take permission from her mother — if we approve the concept of taking permission — or any other woman who could assume the role of a mother, like an older sister for example? To be more specific, why does the passports department ask for the written permission of a male guardian and not a female guardian? And why does it need a permission, written or unwritten, in the first place? And why all of this caution over passports of women who

are over 18 years of age? And why are women treated this way, and why are they requested to fulfill this prerequisite when the constitution states clearly that there is no difference between male and female, and that all Jordanians, females and males, are equal in the law?

I asked an official at the passports department one day what was the secret behind this differentiation between men and women regarding passports and he gave me a long boring speech which in short indicated that our traditions do not allow the complete freedom of women in acquiring passports. He cited examples of women who left the country without the knowledge of their husbands. "This is not allowed, he said and de-

scribed it as downright immoral."

This official was embarrassed when I asked him: How did these women leave? Did they not use passports for which they originally received permission from their guardians? Don't you think that a woman can behave in any manner she wants regardless of that slip of paper you require before issuing a passport to a woman? And why don't you — sorry, I mean the law — worry about the behaviour and manners of men as you do about those of women? Do our traditions allow women?

The Jordanian woman cannot today go by what was accepted for long lost past decades. She now participates in public work, shares in build-

ing, leads public opinion, and shares in the reconstruction on our country based on democracy just as some men who concerned about the future of this country do.

I am saying this since I am faced with a problem that is not unique in this country. A divorced woman came to me and told me that her daughter who has just finished secondary school needs a passport to complete her education at university. This woman informed me that the passports department was demanding the written permission of her guardian. The husband however, does not want to give that permission and he does not want his daughter to continue her education. The husband feels that the tawjih (secondary examination) is enough

and there is no need for a passport or any headaches.

Why would a father such as this one determine the future of his mature daughter and why does the law side by the father whether he is right or wrong? And how can a woman produce and develop when she is restrained by the will of the law and the will of men — (and there is no contradiction between the two)? There are huge female talents in the country in art, politics, education and literature, of which some have achieved much in spite of hurdles, but a majority is still hindered and its contribution is limited in light of the current atmosphere lacking in incentives to produce.

I recently read, in an Al Rai sports supplement, of 400 young women who partici-

pated in a race which was held by the women's club on the occasion of International Women's Day. The winner of the race was a mother, a wife, a working woman and a government officer, who does not have a Sri Lankan maid. Her name is Khitam Al Qaddumi. Such a woman, who gives more than most men, has to get a written permission from her husband before she can get a passport! Why? Why can't women be given their full citizenship rights? I do not know.

The writer is a columnist for Al Rai's Arabic daily, and a Member of Parliament for west Amman. The above article first appeared in Al Rai April 1.

Temple dancers work tourist trade on beach hotel roof

By Bill Tarrant
Reuter

KOVALAM, India — As the sun sets over the Arabian sea, Hindu temple dancers with garishly painted faces, wearing huge skirts and headresses, perform ancient tales of India on a hotel rooftop before sunburst tourists.

The dancers are presenting in pantomime one of the 100,001 episodes of the Mahabharata, India's great epic of love and war, men and gods.

Tourism is giving a fillip to the Kathakali dance troupe, one of many such groups that are finding it hard to survive these days on temple work alone.

Tourism also is working subtle changes in traditional lifestyles in Kovalam, long a favourite of western bohemians taking a break from ashrams and gurus on the old hippie enlightenment trail through India.

Tucked away in the southern tip of India in the state of Kerala, Kovalam has lovely beach coves, coconut tree jungles, cheap seafood restaurants and cosy hotels. Hippies still hang out on the main beach. But the audience watching the Kathakali mime dancers under the stars looks more like the kind of free-spending yuppie adventure travellers that Neptune hotel owner B.K. Das is looking for.

"The hippies are vanishing.

Efforts are on to promote upmarket tourism," Das said in an interview.

But Kalamandalam Sivarajan, director of the Kathakali dance troupe, still has to walk the beach by day, handing out leaflets to sumbathing tourists.

"I am contacting 30 or 40 temples all the time, but so far are dozens of other troupes," said Sivarajan, who studied for eight years to learn the 500 gestures of Kathakali. "There are only a few major festivals a year. Money is sometimes a problem."

A Kathakali performance is supposed to last all night. But Sivarajan, whose troupe toured West Germany last year, gives two-hour abridged versions for foreign audiences.

Local people at first objected to having sacred dances performed in a setting where most women sunbathers are topless and marijuana smoke often wafts on the sea breezes.

"But opposition is reducing because Kathakali has become famous after performing before tourists," said Venu Gopal, a Kerala tourism official.

Kovalam remains primarily a fishing community.

Every morning dozens of men leave on ropes pulling in big mango wood fishing canoes, trailing nets bulging with kingfish and tuna, guiding the boats through rocks, swimmers and sunbathers on the sea breezes.

"You will be taking the message of the gods," Ayurvedic doctor Chandira Babu tells a visitor in his beachside clinic.

Babu gives up to 20 herbal oil massages a day to sun-fried Western tourists. He has no Indian clientele.

"Indian people already do this in their homes," he said, kneading hot oil into a visitor's back. "Why should they pay money to me?"

Babu returns each evening to his village clinic outside Kovalam to dispense herbal medicines to his local patients.

Kovalam is off the beaten tourist path. Of the one million foreigners who visited India in 1988, only 52,000 came to Kerala state and about half of those came to the beach resort, state officials said.

The Marxist Democratic Front government aims to double that number in the next five years by trying what Communist governments elsewhere are doing — free enterprise.

"It is the policy to give all encouragement and assistance to the private sector to hasten the pace of tourism and industrialisation," Minister of Tourism and Communist Party leader P.S. Sreenivasan said in an interview.

The government is discussing projects in Kovalam with several foreign and Indian hoteliers, he said.

Kovalam's one luxury hotel is staying a step ahead of any future competition. It has bought the stone gothic beach palace of the former maharaja of Travancore and is turning the royal rooms into \$300-a-night suites.



Automatic railway — no traffic jams

By Alain Faujas

IN THE space of a few weeks, the Matra firm has scored two successes, one of which was for exports, for its light automatic railway system, VAL (automatic light vehicle). Indeed, the cities of Barcelona and Rennes have decided in its favour and are getting ready to start work on building this ultra-modern public transport system which will reduce traffic jams and structure urban growth.

Matra-Transport's list of achievements is becoming impressive. Its VAL system has been operating in Lille for six years without an accident. It has already carried 160 million passengers; 71 kilometres of lines are in use or being built all over the world. The following towns have chosen this system: Lille, Jacksonville (Florida), the airports of Chicago, Orly and Taipei (Taiwan), Toulouse, Bordeaux, Rennes and Barcelona.

The first metropolitan railway exported by Matra has been operating in Jacksonville, in the United States, since June 1989. For the time being, it is just a modest line, one-kilometre long, with three stations and two vehicles, but the local authorities have undertaken to finance 5 more kilometres, 9 stations and 13 vehicles.

On Oct. 25, the town council of Rennes decided to build an underground railway system 9.3 kilometres long with 17 stations to serve the town centre. The building work will last from 1991 to 1997 and cost two billion francs. In this case too, the VAL has been chosen. Its driverless sections will run every 2.3 minutes at a speed of 31.5 kilometres an hour. The local authorities in Rennes preferred the VAL to the tram which would not have been able to offer the flexibility of the driverless train.

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The VAL system is simple. It is a metropolitan railway system running on tyres guided by side rails and operated by computers on board and on the ground. The departure, stopping and opening of doors is programmed. The platforms

have landing doors which only open when the train doors are directly opposite. This solution prevents people and objects from falling on the track. When the number of travellers increases, a single operator at a control centre can bring in an additional train section. This flexibility of use, more than the prospect of saving on salaries, seems to convince towns to use a fully automated metro system. Indeed, a handful of employees can keep the metro in operation twenty-four hours a day, as in Lille at the time of city celebrations when the metro proved to be the most convenient and least expensive means of transport.

Moreover, the absence of a driver makes it possible to provide a high quality service and absolute safety, as the suitably designed and programmed automation makes no mistakes.

The public is convinced of these advantages and, in Lille, a 65 per cent increase in the use of public transport, in six years, has been noted.

Encouraged by these positive results, Matra-Transport is sending its sales-force to all the towns wishing to settle their traffic problems: Geneva, Milan, Paris, etc... No doubt other town councillors will be persuaded to try the "fully automated" trains in their public transport systems which need rejuvenating and greater efficiency — (L'Actualite en France).

meetings with Aoun and Geagea but failed to declare a breakthrough in its effort to end the bloodshed.

An Algerian official said, the foreign ministers would discuss ways to mobilise Arab and international backing for Hrawi.

The official said the ministers would also discuss developments in east Beirut.

Asked about the possibility of amending the Taif accord, the Algerian official said that was up to the Lebanese parliament.

If Lebanese parliamentarians feel an amendment is necessary it is up to them to do so, not the tripartite committee," he said. "It is an internal Lebanese problem."

The government is discussing projects in Kovalam with several foreign and Indian hoteliers, he said.

Kovalam's one luxury hotel is staying a step ahead of any future competition. It has bought the stone gothic beach palace of the former maharaja of Travancore and is turning the royal rooms into \$300-a-night suites.

Snipers skirmished Tuesday in Beirut and mountains northeast of the city in the conflict for mastery of the Christian enclave.

A three-man Christian mediation committee held separate

meetings with Aoun and Geagea but failed to declare a breakthrough in its effort to end the bloodshed.

Aoun in an interview with the conservative Al Diyar newspaper said he had sent letters to Arab leaders proposing the initiation of a "serious dialogue to discuss the Lebanese crisis to replace this political disagreement over the Taif accord."

Aoun made his proposal to the leaders of Saudi Arabia, Morocco and Algeria that sponsored the Taif talks.

Foreign ministers of the three Arab states are to meet in Rabat

Iraq's private sector investment up — ministry

BAGHDAD (AP) — Iraqi businessmen invested nearly 1 billion dinars (\$3 billion) in projects since the government launched a privatisation programme in 1987, the trade ministry said Monday.

The director of the companies registration department said that more than 692 million dinars (about \$2.1 billion) was invested last year in new agricultural, industrial and services projects.

The official, who was not named, said 767 new companies were set up in 1989 after the government eased restrictions to encourage the private sector to invest in the economy.

In 1988, 535 companies were established and about 215 million dinars (\$650 million) invested by the private sector, he said.

Most of the new projects were set up by shareholding companies especially to buy government-owned enterprises which were

sold off under the privatisation programme.

The announcement was apparently designed to refute Western assessments that President Saddam Hussein's efforts to loosen socialist constraints on the economy following the 1988 ceasefire in the war with Iran have failed to yield significant results.

The government in February unveiled a 24.4 billion-dinar (\$7.8 billion) budget, the first time it has announced budget figures in eight years.

Industrial development and boosting agricultural output are two of the government's main target areas.

Iraq ended with the war with a foreign debt estimated at \$60 to \$70 billion, about half of it owed to Arab countries that will likely be written off.

It has been rescheduling repayments to some of its major credit

tors while seeking to attract investment to revitalise the economy and bankroll its ambitious post-war reconstruction drive.

Meanwhile, the Al Ittihad business weekly reported Monday that President Hussein has instructed the trade ministry to allow foreign companies' local agents to make deals with government departments and enterprises.

Al Ittihad said a presidential decree ordered that these organisations can sign contacts with local agents without the involvement of the ministry or other state agencies.

The government last year permitted foreign companies to have agents in Iraq or to open branches if they have business in the country.

The agents are empowered to make all kinds of trade transactions or commercial dealings with the Japanese currency, the figures show.

"There was a more intense effort at the beginning of the month when they were desperately trying to hold the line at 150 yen to the dollar," said Yoshiro Okabe, senior manager at Midland Bank. "They seemed ready to give up by month-end."

The dollar closed in Tokyo at 159.95 yen Monday against 158.50 in New York Friday, after hitting a three-year, three-month high of 160.35 earlier in the day.

On March 1, it closed at 149.76 yen.

Dealers said there were structural reasons for the yen's depreciation — the narrowing of Japan's trade and current account surpluses, the increase of direct foreign investments by Japanese firms, and the market's impression that Japan was unable to manage its

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, embarking on an era of privatising a huge public sector, chaired a cabinet meeting Monday to review International Monetary Fund (IMF)-prescribed economic reforms ahead of a fresh round of talks with the fund.

Mubarak discussed the IMF's demands with the full cabinet for three hours and officials said an IMF team was expected back in Cairo in mid-April.

Economists said both sides were eager to reach an accord before the new fiscal year which starts July 1 but there were differences over the speed of implementing reforms that include demands for a free market and a cut in the public sector.

Egyptian officials said the IMF and Egypt were close to a deal, crucial for Egypt to start talks with the creditors to reschedule part of its estimated \$50 billion foreign debt.

Monday's semi-official Al Ahram newspaper said the cabinet session would focus on "naming a large number of industrial companies to begin the experiment of liberating public sector companies."

The IMF is demanding an increase in interest rates to more than 20 per cent of the Egyptian pound, a rise in the exchange rate and an "actual" floatation of the currency in return for emergency funds to help finance development projects.

Diplomats said Mubarak, who last year described the IMF as a "quack doctor," fears a speedy implementation of the Washington-based fund's demands could trigger social unrest.

Officials said the IMF and the World Bank were also demanding a rise in electricity and fuel prices and a cut in subsidised commodities such as bread, rice and edible oil.

Diplomats say Egypt, which receives some \$2.1 billion a year in U.S. aid, had no alternative but to accept the IMF demands.

The other major industrial countries have an 8.5 per cent share in the bank, but European Community countries would control it with a 51 per cent share.

U.S. officials also are seeking a 10 per cent share in the bank, which would make the United States the largest single shareholder, and a fixed dollar commitment for the U.S. subscription. Mulford said the administration does not want to approach Congress with an open-ended funding request.

The bank is expected to start with about \$12 billion in capital, with a U.S. commitment of \$1.21 billion.

Mulford said he hoped the major issues would be resolved at the Paris negotiating session following the G-7 ministerial meeting.

Under-Secretary of Treasury David Mulford, the chief U.S. negotiator on the proposed bank,

Bank of Japan no longer effective in bolstering yen

TOKYO (R) — Muscle-flexing intervention in currency markets by the Bank of Japan (BOJ) is no longer effective in propping up the staggering yen, analysts say.

"They seem to have come to a dead end as far as intervention goes," said Hiroaki Shikuzawa, a manager at Sumitomo Bank. "And they must know it."

The central bank spent a record 1.107 trillion yen (\$7.2 billion) in March to defend the yen in currency markets, the Ministry of Finance said in a monthly report released Monday.

But traders said this huge investment had only slowed the yen's slide.

Based on an average year/dollar rate of 153.19 yen in March, the bank spent the equivalent of \$7.6 billion in defence of the Japanese currency, the figures show.

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Dealers said there were structural reasons for the yen's depreciation — the narrowing of Japan's trade and current account surpluses, the increase of direct foreign investments by Japanese firms, and the market's impression that Japan was unable to manage its

monetary policy.

Japan's current account, its broadest measure of trade in goods and services, has narrowed continuously for 12 months.

"There is so little reason to support the yen now," said Yuichi Sugiura, a manager at Sanwa Bank. "History is changing, and assessment of the yen is changing as well. Massive intervention cannot reverse this."

The central bank's dollar-selling intervention in fiscal 1989, which ended in March, was a record 4.76 trillion yen (\$32.2 billion), the report said.

"Even seen at a yearly basis, they have increasingly lost control," said Midland Bank's Okabe. "It's not like the days of the (1985) Plaza Accord, when the market truly responded because then, that was the direction it was bound for."

The Plaza Accord, named after New York's Plaza Hotel, was aimed at driving down the dollar and was reached in September 1985. It was followed by massive concerted intervention among the group of five (G-5) industrialised countries which pushed the yen up nearly 100 yen against the dollar in two years.

Dealers said the BOJ, by clinging to the notion of international policy coordination in managing exchange rates, was now out of step.

"We have entered an era in which each country minds its own policies first," said Satoshi Matsuda, foreign exchange manager at Mitsubishi Trust Bank. "The BOJ looks alone in its fight."

"It's become more and more apparent that the yen's fall has

deep-seated reasons," said Sumitomo's Shikuzawa.

"Money can't buy love, and the yen is not loved now."

Stocks bounces back

Prices on the Tokyo stock exchange rose sharply Tuesday in nervous, roller-coaster trading, as the U.S. dollar dropped against the Japanese yen.

The 225-share Nikkei stock average gained a hefty 757.65 points, or 2.7 per cent, ending the day at 28,757.65. In morning trading, the index first rose more than 500 points, then fell below the 28,000-point line.

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JORDAN TIMES, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 4, 1990

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY APRIL 4, 1990

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Today you have every chance to gain a higher and longer perspective of eternal truths by concentrating your time and efforts on studies of your choice that will add to your understanding.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19)

Now is the day to plunge into your activities early with the knowledge that they can be done in an efficient manner; later don't upset a friend.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20)

Now you can to bring out your finest charm and magnetism during the daytime while later avoid spending more than you can afford in pleasure.

gemini: (May 21 to June 19)

Use this day as much as you can to improve your residence so that it glitters and glows even though later care needs to be exercised.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20)

Be organized and ready to get into some new interests and activities early and through the day but tonight avoid a difficult newcomer.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21)

Get busy at whatever outside duties or correspondence faces you during the day but then use much care on the highway in the evening.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21)

Money and property matters and a new course of action connected with making them more successful should be your outlet until night when use care in expenditures.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22)

Consider now what you perso-

nally desire and you will be able to make it shortly a part of your life but in the evening use care in asking any favours.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22)

Confidential discussions with those whom you trust can bring you some answers that solve perplexing problems; then tonight enjoy a private hobby.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 22)

Discriminating and analytical friends and acquaintances can be excellent for pushing your best interests during the day while in evening sidestep one who confuses.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21)

Tackle enigmatic problems of a worldly or vocational nature that have been difficult today and then look to your own personal concerns.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20)

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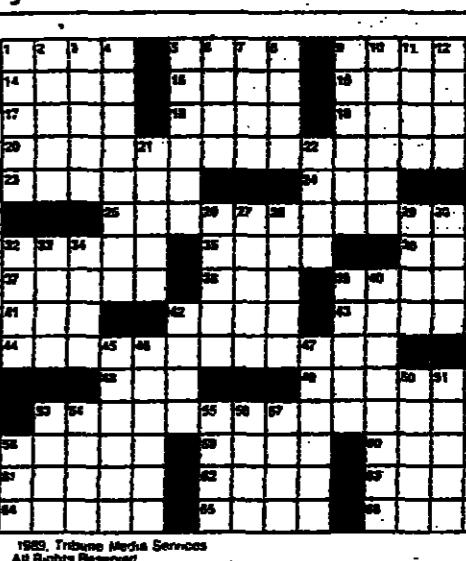
AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19)

Sort out your assets and liabilities to you have a clearer picture just where you stand and solve them calmly, then tonight forge the practical.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20)

Open discussions with those you regard as partners can bring to light and fruition a course of action beneficial to all concerned.

THE Daily Crossword



Marseille, Benfica clash today

LONDON (R) — French sharpshooter Jean-Pierre Papin aims to outgun Swedish ace Mats Magnusson when two of Europe's most prolific marksmen clash in a European Cup soccer semifinal showdown between Marseille and Benfica Wednesday.

But while Papin duels with Magnusson in Marseille, Dutch star Marco Van Basten can show he is still the classiest striker in Europe when he leads the attack of Italian holdouts A.C. Milan in the other semifinal first leg against West German champions Bayern Munich.

Papin plundered his third hat-trick of the season last Saturday to hoist his tally of league goals to 27 as Marseille romped to a 4-1 win over Lille.

Magnusson was also firmly on target Saturday, striking twice in the second half to give Benfica a 2-0 home win over Chaves in the Portuguese first division and raise his personal account for the sea-

son to 28.

Van Basten has netted 19 times in the Italian first division. The trio are top scorers in their respective leagues.

Predatory Papin supplied the lion's share of the goals which earned Marseille the French League and Cup double last year and has scored on five of his six European outings this season.

He notched his 100th goal for Marseille in the 3-1 quarter-final second leg win over CFKA Sofia two weeks ago which took the club's ambitions millionaire president Bernard Tapie a step closer to fulfilling his dream of bringing Europe's Premier Club trophy to France for the first time.

England winger Chris Waddle is providing an ideal foil for Papin and scored himself against both CFKA and Lille.

Benfica were the semifinal opponents both Tapie and Waddle wanted.

Benfica, like Marseille, are

second in their domestic league but they have not been at their best and could be without influential Swedish midfielder Jonas Thern, who was out of action last weekend because of a leg injury.

Benfica have to look back a long way — to 1961 and 1962 — for their European Cup triumphs, though they reached the final in 1988 when they were defeated in a penalty shoot-out by PSV Eindhoven of the Netherlands.

High-flying PSV fell to Bayern in these quarter-finals and the West Germans, enjoying an unfamiliar underdog role, will hope to upset the odds when they take on A.C. Milan in the San Siro stadium.

A.C. Milan will be without gifted winger Roberto Donadoni, effectively barred from the rest of the competition when he was suspended for three matches by the European Football Union

(UEFA) for violence in the quarter-final second leg against Belgium's Mechelen.

Midfielder Carlo Ancelotti, who plays alongside Donadoni for Italy, was injured in the same match and will be another absentee from a side deprived by injury of the exceptional talents of Dutchman Ruud Gullit all season.

Gullit's compatriot Van Basten, European footballer of the year for the past two seasons, guided Milan into the semifinals by breaking the scoreless deadlock against Mechelen with an extra-time goal which led to a hard-earned 2-0 win.

Van Basten and utility defender Frank Rijkaard, withheld by Milan from a Dutch international match last week, will play key roles for the title-holders who have lost their aura of invincibility in recent weeks.

Argentina ousts Germany from Davis Cup matches

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP) — In a wild finish to a memorable encounter, Alberto Mancini defeated Carl-Uwe Steeb Monday in the conclusion of a suspended Davis Cup tennis match. With his victory, Argentina narrowly ousted defending champion West Germany from the competition by a score of 3-2.

"No moment did I lose control of the match," an exultant Mancini said after locking up his 7-6 (8-6), 6-3, 6-4 victory. "I returned to play at a level I had not reached since last year."

Mancini had won the first two sets Sunday before the match was suspended because of darkness. Play resumed Monday with the third set tied at three games apiece.

Under a warm fall sun and

backed by a roaring, on-its-feet crowd of several thousand people, Mancini dropped his service game. Then he routed the German, taking three games in a row by winning all eight of Steeb's service points and holding his own.

In a bare 25 minutes, the match was over and fans who had been chanting "let's go, let's go Argentina" had red clay on their sneakers and Mancini on their shoulders.

Argentina, which lost to the United States in the 1981 Davis Cup final, advances to face Australia in the 1990 Davis Cup semifinal.

From the first match, the duel between two teams of great talent and tennis tradition had elements

of the unexpected and dramatic. In the end, it was carried by

an exhausted Mancini returned to the court Sunday against Steeb. The Argentine lost the first set, won the next two, then was routed in the fourth and trailed in the fifth.

At game point that would have put Steeb up 4-2, Mancini closed off 10 straight points and closed out the match by winning 17 of the final 21 points.

"When Mancini returned to me destroyed," Argentine coach Alejandro Gatica said. "He was emotionally exhausted. I told him all he could do was go forward, get aggressive."

Jaité refused to lose.

After the match, he stood transfixed at centre court with his racket aloft, crying.

Olympic chief assesses preparations for 1992

BARCELONA, Spain — International Olympic chief Juan Antonio Samaranch met the organisers of Barcelona's 1992 Olympic Games Monday to assess progress made since preparations got off to a shaky start.

It was the first time that International Olympic Committee (IOC) President Samaranch had personally headed one of the regular progress meetings with the Barcelona organising committee (COOB).

Organisers were hoping that the two-day meeting would improve relations between the two bodies, damaged by Samaranch's publicly-expressed doubts about whether Barcelona would be ready for the games.

Samaranch was expected to make a statement after the second day of talks Tuesday, COOB officials said.

COOB chief Josep Miquel Abad told reporters the capacity of the Montjuich stadium, accommodation and transport were on the agenda.

COOB president and Barcelona Mayor Pasqual Maragall told Samaranch Barcelona would be able to accommodate the 40,000-strong Olympic family but said greater numbers could be a problem.

Heavy rain spoiled Maragall's

Las Vegas wins NCAA title

DENVER (AP) — Anderson Hunt scored 29 points to lead the University of Las Vegas-Nevada (UNLV) to the National Collegiate Athletic Association's (NCAA's) basketball championship over Duke University in the 1988 title game.

UNLV ended Monday night's game with the largest margin of victory in a college national championship game.

Jerry Tarkanian, a coach who fought the NCAA in the courts for the past 15 years, guided UNLV to its first national title and Duke continued as the school with the most frustrating of post-season records.

Tarkanian's runnin' Rebels also became the first college team with a pre-season no. 1 ranking to win the title since North Carolina in 1982, and the first western team since UCLA won in 1975.

They did it with the style they have made famous — tenacious man-to-man defence — as they rattled Duke, a team known for its savvy and poise.

Duke was making its eighth

appearance in the final four of the NCAA season-ending tournament. The Blue Devils went home again without a trophy.

UNLV managed a 10-point lead just 7:26 into the game as the Rebels forced Duke into turnover after turnover, mostly by stealing the ball.

They scored the first points of the game, and never trailed.

Duke, which averaged 17.2 turnovers per game this season, had 14 at halftime and 10 of those were on steals by the Rebels.

The first 10-point lead came on a sequence of four UNLV steals in four consecutive possessions — the last was by Stacey Augmon, who took the ball from Phil Henderson near midcourt and sailed in for a dunk. That made it 21-11.

The lead extended to 41-25 with 3:46 left in the half as UNLV contested every pass made by Duke. The Rebels had 16 points off turnovers in the first half as they took a 47-35 halftime lead.

Duke got within 10 points, 57-47, with 16:24 to play, but the Rebels went on an 18-0 run to put the game away and it was Augmon and Anderson hunt who took turns putting the Blue Devils away.

Hunt shot 12-of-16, while Larry Johnson, UNLV's leading scorer and rebounder this season, finished with 22 and 11 rebounds.

Henderson led Duke with 21 points.

UNLV, which beat Georgia Tech 90-81 in the semifinals, was never really challenged on the run to the title, winning its six NCAA tournament games by an average of 18.8 points.

Duke reached the final four with a last-second overtime win over Connecticut but handled Arkansas 97-83 in the semifinals.

Werner to buy San Diego Padres

SAN DIEGO (AP) — An investment group headed by Hollywood producer Tom Werner signed a letter of intent Monday to purchase the San Diego Padres baseball team, club owner Joan Kroc said.

Terms of transaction were not released, but the club's price tag was reported to be \$75 million.

The deal is contingent on approval of major league baseball owners before it can be finalised. The purchase is expected to be completed within the next 45 to 60 days.

"I expect that my status with respect to the Padres will soon be that of many thousands of San Diego citizens," Kroc said. "While I will be relinquishing the ownership of the Padres, I will not be relinquishing my status as a loyal and enthusiastic supporter of this fine team."

"I trust that Mr. Werner and his group will do their utmost to represent the fans' interest in the decisions they will be making for this club," Kroc said.

The original asking price for the Padres was \$100 million, but industry sources said skyrocketing player salaries have pushed franchise values downward.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Italians may earn up to 500m lire

MILAN (AP) — Italian players may earn up to 500 million lire (\$385,000) each if they qualify for the World Cup final and win Italy a fourth world title, soccer federation sources has reported. Antonio Matarrese, the president of the Italian Soccer Federation, said an agreement on World Cup money prizes was negotiated with the players' representatives over the last weekend, but he refused to confirm any of the details. The agreement includes prize money for all 22 national team players for each step forward in the World Cup — qualification for the second round, quarterfinals and semifinals. A bonus will be added in case of victory in the prestigious competition.

Indonesian to challenge IBF champ

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP) — Abdi Pohan of Indonesia will fight International Boxing Federation (IBF) junior flyweight champion Muang Chai Kittikasem of Thailand in a 12-round title bout in Bangkok April 10, a boxing official said Tuesday. The Indonesian national champion is to leave for Bangkok Thursday, accompanied by his manager, Eddy Rumpoko, and trainer, Wongso Suseno, said Peter Gedoan, an executive of the Indonesian Boxing Commission. Indonesia has no world champion since last year, when Elias Pical, former IBF junior bantamweight champion, and Nico Thomas, former IBF straw-weight champion, lost their titles.

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AVISO A LOS CIUDADANOS COLOMBIANOS EN JORDANIA

EL CONSUL HONORARIO DE LA REPUBLICA DE COLOMBIA EN AMMAN ELIA COSTANDI NUOUL, INFORMA A LOS CIUDADANOS COLOMBIANOS EN EL REINO HACHEMITA DE JORDANIA QUE EL DIA DOMINGO 27 DE MAYO SE CELEBRARAN LAS ELECCIONES PRESIDENCIALES.

PARA VOTAR ES REQUISITO NECESARIO HACER LA INSCRIPCION DE SU NOMBRE MEDIANTE LA PRESENTACION DE SU CEDULA DE CIUDADANIA COLOMBIANA O SU RESPECTIVO PASAPORTE. LAS INSCRIPCIONES SE LLEVARAN A CABO DEL 27 DE MARZO HASTA EL DIA 10 DE MAYO EN EL CONSULADO DE COLOMBIA EN AMMAN.

PARA DEPOSITAR EL VOTO NECESARIAMENTE SE DEBE PRESENTAR LA CEDULA DE CIUDADANIA, TOMANDO EN CONSIDERACION QUE LOS CIUDADANOS TENDRAN QUE IR A VOTAR EN LA EMBAJADA DE COLOMBIA — EL CAIRO — EGPTO.

PARA HACER LA INSCRIPCION DE SU NOMBRE, O PARA CUALQUIER ASUNTO CONSULAR EN QUE PUEDE EL CONSULADO SERVICIR, SE RUEGA COMUNICAR CON LA SIGUIENTE DIRECCION:

CONSULADO HONORARIO DE LA REPUBLICA DE COLOMBIA

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GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNAH HIRSCH. © 1989 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

U.S. WINS WOMEN'S WORLD TITLE

North-South vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH
♦ A K 7 5
♥ K 10 5
♦ 8 7 3
♦ 9 7 2

EAST
♦ J 10 6 3 ♠ Q 9 2
♥ 7 4 ♠ 9 8 2
♦ 6 ♠ A Q 9 4
♦ A Q J 8 6 4 ♠ K 5 3

SOUTH
♦ 8 4 ♠ A Q J 6 3
♥ K J 10 5 2 ♠ 10

The bidding:

North East South West
Pass 1 ♠ 1 ♠ 1 ♠ 1 ♠
Dbl 3 ♠ Pass
4 ♠ Pass Pass

Opening lead: Six of ♠

The U.S. Women's Team defeated the Netherlands in a close match to win the Venice Cup, emblematic of the world bridge supremacy. Representing the U.S. were a quartet of New Yorkers: Kerry Shuman, Karen McCallum, Margie Gwozdzinsky and Kitty Bethe, and Lynn Deas, Schenectady, N.Y., and Beth

Palmer, Silver Springs, Md. Palmer and Deas were East and West, respectively, on this hand from the last session. Without knowing partnership agreements, it is difficult for us to comment on the auction. In the other room, Kerry Shuman had made four hearts as South when East did not open the bidding and West elected to lead the ace of clubs.

Against the same contract, West led her singleton diamond. East took the ace and returned the four of diamonds — a suit preference signal showing a possible entry in the lower-ranking side suit, in this case, clubs. West dutifully underlined the ace of clubs, allowing East to gain the lead with the king of clubs. Another diamond ruff completed a textbook defense — down one.

Suit preference signals are simple to master and effective in many phases of the game. Since they exclude the trump suit, they involve only two suits. If the entry is in the higher of those two suits, you return a high card. Thus, had East's entry been in spades, she would have shot back the queen of diamonds to request a spade lead and not a club.

It was nice to come back with a cushion after the delay," Van Rensburg said. "He was a dangerous opponent."

The loss was the fourth in the first round this year for Zivojinovic, who has slipped to no. 109 in the world.

Rostagno complimented Krish-

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CONCORD

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DRAGNET

Performances: 3:30, 8:30, 10:3

Mandela welcomes crackdown but sceptical over effectiveness

PIETERMARITZBURG (R) — Black nationalist leader Nelson Mandela Tuesday welcomed President F.W. de Klerk's decision to send troops to pacify South Africa's black townships, but demanded government consultations.

After visiting scenes of some of the bloodiest fighting in townships around the white city of Pietermaritzburg, Mandela told a news conference: "We welcome the measures which the president has implemented... but there are serious problems."

"A unilateral action on the part of the government without consultation with black leaders is bound to be ineffective, no matter the merits," he said.

De Klerk announced Monday he had ordered more troops and police in black areas to quell violence that has claimed more than 400 lives since Mandela, the most prominent black leader, was freed from jail and his African

National Congress (ANC) and other opposition groups were legalised two months ago.

Mandela demanded the removal of the head of South Africa's police, saying he was "uncooperative and has no sympathy for black aspirations."

He mentioned no names, but was assumed to be referring to Adrian Vlock, the hardline law and order minister, whose portfolio includes responsibility for police.

"We can see no solution until the man has been removed from that position," he said.

Mandela refused to say whether he would demand his dismissal when he meets De

Klerk in Cape Town Thursday for talks expected to centre on township violence and on the ANC's suspension of exploratory discussions with the government on South Africa's future.

The long-awaited "talks" due to have begun on April 11, were called off by the ANC in protest against the killing of up to 17 black demonstrators by police in the Johannesburg township of Soweto last week.

The ANC accuses white-led security forces of inciting unrest in the teeming townships and homelands where most blacks live. White officials counter that black leaders appear incapable of controlling radical supporters.

Police Tuesday reported two more killings in Natal, where supporters of the ANC-aligned United Democratic Front (UDF) are fighting Zulu chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi's Inkatha Movement.

The victims included a special police constable who was decapitated.

Police listed 11 hacked or burned bodies recovered from weekend fighting between gangs of thousands armed with automatic weapons, spears and slashing knives called pangas. At least 60 people have been killed in the past week.

Reporters in the area Tuesday said steel-helmeted white troops patrolled some of the worst-hit townships, but police said the reinforcements ordered by De Klerk had yet to arrive.

Authorities said the townships were tense but under control.

Mandela, ending a two-day tour of trouble-spots, said he saw the shot and burned body of a man buried under debris in the township of Imbali Monday night.

31 killed in Punjab bomb attack

AMRITSAR, India (AP) — A powerful bomb exploded in a vegetable market in Punjab, killing at least 31 people and injuring 60 others Tuesday as Hindu residents were celebrating a religious holiday, police said.

An indefinite curfew was imposed in Batala after the blast that occurred at 3 p.m. (0930 GMT) when the market was crowded with holiday shoppers, senior Police Superintendent S. G. Goel said.

He said Sikhs extremists were suspected of planting the bomb, which was hidden in a parked motor scooter. Sikh militants have killed more than 500 people this year in their quest to set up a separate homeland in Punjab.

Batala is 40 kilometres north of Amritsar, the Sikh holy city.

Soon after the blast, Hindu mobs hurled stones at a police station 150 metres from the vegetable market, Goel said but added he did not know if any policeman was injured.

"The situation is very tense," he said.

He said 20 people were killed in the bombing and two others

died from their wounds at a hospital. The injured, many of them in serious condition, were admitted to hospitals in Batala and Amritsar.

Press Trust of India carried a preliminary list of the victims, whose names indicated that most were Hindus.

Among those killed were four women and two children, Goel said.

United News of India said the bombing occurred during a procession marking Ram Navami, a Hindu holiday celebrating the birth of Rama, a heroic warrior-king. Rama is extolled in Hindu lore as an incarnation of Vishnu, a member of the supreme Hindu trinity of gods.

The United News report could not be immediately confirmed.

Earlier Tuesday, a bomb exploded on a bus in another town near Amritsar, killing the driver and one passenger, senior Police Superintendent Anil Sharma said. Police blamed Sikh extremists for the blast that happened near Taragarh, 28 kilometres northeast of Amritsar.

Sharma said both victims of the bus attack were Sikhs.

Column 8

Man to set record with 50 children

RAS AL KHAIMAH, United Arab Emirates (R) — A local man is trying to set what he believes to be a Gulf record by fathering 50 children, a local newspaper said Tuesday. Salim Juma from the small Emirate of Ras Al Khaimah already has 32 children from eight women, four of them born over the last year, and another three expected, the Gulf news said. The paper said

Juma, an employee of the Ministry of Islamic Affairs, has complained that his monthly salary of

12,000 dirhams (\$3,270) was not enough to keep his children, his current wives, and to pay off his four divorced wives. Islam allows each man up to four wives at one time.

Dolly Parton sells house for \$2m

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Entertainer Dolly Parton recently sold her three-bedroom home in the Hollywood Hills, at close to the \$2-million asking price, according to her real estate agent.

Parton also has a home in Tennessee, where she spends most of her time, but she is likely to buy another house in Los Angeles after she completes a 70-city concert tour with Kenny Rogers. Miss Parton bought the house, just off the Sunset Strip, about four years ago, and has thoroughly remodelled the place, said agent June Scott. "It was a very personal house to enhance her relaxation, and she liked it so much that at one point she nearly didn't sell it," Ms. Scott said. The buyers were described only as a local couple.

1 in every 6 U.S. women sterilised

WASHINGTON (AP) — Nearly one in every six American women in the normal childbearing age group has been surgically sterilised as a method of birth control, a government report shows. The results of the National Centre for Health Statistics study indicate that nearly as many women 15 to 44 opt for sterilisation as choose to use the birth control pill.

King Birendra's government has taken a hard line against the Democracy Movement. The monarch dismissed nine ministers on Sunday because they opposed the crackdown.

The government says Nepal's system of government is democratic and the pro-Democracy Movement has been hijacked by Communists extremists.

Four people died in clashes with police over the weekend.

Informed sources said the army has taken over security responsibilities from police in the Kathmandu Valley.

Engineering staff from Royal Nepal Airlines stopped work for three hours Monday, delaying a number of flights, airport officials said.

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It noted that this year's \$21 billion (\$34 billion) budget is lower, reckoning with inflation, than last year. But the Ministry of Defence said the budget will recover somewhat between 1991 and 1993.

The report included a section on the spread of ballistic missiles and chemical and biological warfare technology, particularly in the Middle East.

Criminals charged for prison stay

IOWA CITY, Iowa (AP) — Federal judges across the country increasingly are ordering criminals not only to pay for their crime in time behind bars, but to pay the cost of their prison stay. From Jan. 19, 1989, through the end of October, federal judges ordered 254 defendants to pay a monthly

fee during their prison sentence, according to the U.S. sentencing commission in Washington. "We see this as merely an equitable and common sense thing to do," said Judge William Wilkins Jr. of the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Richmond, Virginia, chairman of the seven-member commission.

"If you have the wherewithal to reimburse taxpayers for the cost of your imprisonment, which you caused through the commission of a criminal act, then you ought to have to pay," Wilkins said. Some civil libertarians, however, are objecting.

Airline smoking ban urged in Australia

PERTH, Australia (AP) — Medical authorities Monday pushed for a ban on smoking in all aircraft flying in Australian airspace. Smoking on all domestic flights has been banned since last October, but international flights with connections within Australia are still subjected to smoking by others,

Argentines will be able to see their former foe's view of the conflict for the first time when a private television station airs a British-made programme on the war Monday night.

Bombs rock Greek cities ahead of elections

KATHMANDU (R) — At least five people were shot dead and 27 were injured Monday during a demonstration for multi-party democracy in the Himalayan kingdom of Nepal, hospital sources said.

Witnesses said police began firing on a crowd of several thousand people near Tribhuvan University who had gathered to protest against a crackdown on the pro-democracy campaign.

At least 19 people have died since mid-February when the campaign was launched by banned political parties grouped under Movement for the Restoration of Democracy.

A number of ambulances arrived at the army and police hospitals in the capital, indicating the casualties toll may have been higher, witnesses said. The hospitals did not comment.

Four people were killed in the demonstration near the university and a fifth was killed when police fired on another crowd which had

gathered in the densely-populated Nardevi neighbourhood of central Kathmandu, witnesses and hospital sources said.

At least 12 spontaneous demonstrations erupted in the evening after most residents turned off their lights in a black-out protest against the government's crackdown on the Democracy Movement, witnesses said.

Engineering staff from Royal Nepal Airlines stopped work for three hours Monday, delaying a number of flights, airport officials said.

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